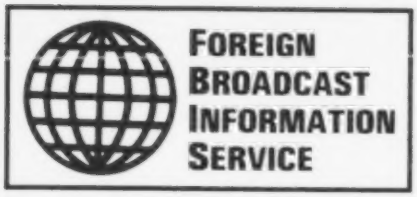

Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-87-188
Tuesday
29 September 1987

Daily Report
Latin America

FBIS-LAT-87-188 *29 September 1987*

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Cuba

Rome Paper Carries Fidel Castro Interview

PM281006 Rome L'ESPRESSO in Italian 20 sep 87 pp 56-66

[Interview with Cuban President Fidel Castro by Italian newspaper L'ESPRESSO correspondent Gianni Mina in Havana on 28 June]

[Text] As a long-standing and enthusiastic correspondent from Latin America, I had been seeking the interview that Fidel Castro granted me on Sunday 28 June for almost 13 years. It was made possible for me by the help, day after day over the years, of a number of friends—writers, film makers, ambassadors, and world travelers—and also by a series of favorable circumstances.

Fidel Castro is an intellectual, but a New World intellectual.He lacks any particular presumptuousness or posturing but nevertheless prepared to pin me down with facts, figures, comparisons, and percentages (easily verifiable from UN and WHO records) if my aggressiveness as a reporter conditioned by any typical western capitalist prejudices ever lapsed into misinformation.

The interview lasted 16 hours nonstop. It began at 1400 in the futuristic Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology Center and ended at almost 0600 in the corner of Fidel's office in the Palace of the Revolution where his favorite easy chair is situated.

One of the topics broached as dawn was about to break was a detailed and touching recollection of Castro's friendship with Che Guevara. He then also madethe historic disclosure that following his famous African tour, Che returned to Cuba to get ready and change his appearance by cutting his hair and beard and that it was precisely from Cuba (this is the revelation) that he left for Bolivia. He ignored the entreaties of Fidel and other comrades asking him to desist from an attempt that was both politically and militarily premature.

The complete interview will be published in mid-November by Mondadori in Italy and then worldwide. The television version lasts 7 and 1/2 hours and was filmed by a team comprising director Giampiero Ricci, cameramen Roberto Girometti and Federico Del Zoppo, assistant cameraman Lucio Granelli, and sound technician Lello Rotolo, with the help of coordinator Francesco [as published] Usallan, a Cuban Foreign Ministry official. A 1 and 1/2 hour summary will be shown in Italy at 2030 on Saturday 19 September on Italian Television channel 3, followed by discussion. On 8 October, the 20th anniversary of Che Guevara's death, Channel 3 will broadcast Fidel's extensive recollections of his friend, supplemented by unpublished historical material. The complete interview that Castro granted me is the first on such a scale ever granted to a European television station in 27 years.

[Mina] Commander Castro, the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva recently examined and rejected the U.S. proposal to condemn Cuba for violating human rights. How do you answer that charge?

[Castro] I want to tell you something. The United States has always tried, under its various administrations, to create an unfavorable image of the Cuban revolution. This has been done, to curb the influence of revolutionary ideas. The United States knew that favorable objective conditions existed for the development of the revolutionary movement in Latin America. It made several attempts to isolate Cuba, adopted economic embargo measures, and worked hard on and succeeded in attracting every Latin American country except Mexico to its policy of blockade and isolation. All this was accompanied from the outset by major publicity campaigns against the Cuban revolution. It did the same against Arbens' revolution and the Mexican revolution at the time of Lazaro Cardenal, saying terrible things about the revolution because it nationalized oil. Then it did the same against the Sandinist revolution, and it has done the same against every revolution. Each pursued his own policy. Kennedy inherited Eisenhower's policy. The revolution had not yet acquired a socialist character when an invasion had already been organized. The most important measure that we adopted was the agrarian reform, followed by other measures such as the confiscation of embezzlers' assets, the lowering of electricity and telephone charges, rent laws, and urban reform, but it was not yet a socialist program. Kennedy inherited Eisenhower's and Nixon's plan of action and carried it out, with some doubts and understandable hesitation, by ordering the mercenary invasion at Giron in which he suffered a major defeat. This episode was defined as Yankee imperialism's first defeat in America.

[Mina] Why did Kennedy retreat at the last moment....

[Castro] Kennedy had doubts but he went ahead with the plan. He believed the promises made by the CIA; he believed in the wisdom of the Pentagon and the CIA, in their military experience and professionalism; he believed the information and propaganda; and above all he believed that the people would join the mercenaries, the invaders, and that the troops would not fight and would turn their weapons against the government. He believed all this despite the fact that his strategy—which I have studied very closely—cannot have agreed with this theory because they chose an isolated location, a place separated from the rest of the country's territory by a great swamp.It was very difficult to counterattack because it was necessary to cross 10 km of swamp via two roads, which made the route a kind of Thermopylae pass. They could not protect their flanks and depended totally on air power. They bombed our aircraft at the bases—the few that we had—in a surprise attack, using Cuban colors. However, they underestimated the people and that was the essence of their great defeat.

Kennedy hesitated; he was afraid at that moment. His administration was engaging in a conflict with Latin America and in what could have constituted the genocide of a Latin American people—a people who would have struggled because they already had hundreds of thousands of weapons and were prepared to struggle. Of course it was a heavy defeat for the "empire." They took

it as a humiliation and thought about revenge. It was these very thoughts that later prompted the October crisis that almost caused the outbreak of a nuclear war. During the period following the Giron invasion, Kennedy sponsored actions, dirty warfare, an economic blockade, and pirate attacks but also responded more intelligently by formulating a program for Latin America—a social reform and economic aid program. This really was an intelligent strategy in seeking to curb the revolution. If only they had a political program of this kind now. At the time of the "alliance for progress" Kennedy proposed a plan that envisaged the expenditure of $ 20 billion over 10 years on agrarian and fiscal reform, housing construction, education, and health. That is in fact what we did. Now, after 25 years, the Latin American countries owe $ 400 billion—20 times what Kennedy proposed to the "alliance for progress." Every year the capitalist countries receive over $ 20 billion. Now we have virtually an opposite kind of alliance, in which the impoverished countries are promoting the development of the advanced capitalist countries. This is the situation now.

My Prisoners [subhead]

[Mina] Let us return to the charge leveled at Cuba of violating human rights.

[Castro] Every U.S. Government has launched major campaigns to defame Cuba but it never occurred to any administration to accuse it in Geneva of violating human rights. This never happened but of course it did occur to the most reactionary, the most corrupt, and the most lying government—we say this frankly: the most immoral of U.S. governments.

[Mina] Commander Castro, why are there still political prisoners in Cuba in 1987?

[Castro] The United States has made great efforts and invested great resources in every campaign against the Cuban revolution, whereby it has secured support even from European reactionary sectors. It has thus created the conditions, a certain climate, by repeating its lies and slanders a thousand times, using fascist methods. The Cuban revolution is the only revolutionary process in the world—and we are acquainted with history—that has never used violence against a prisoner, a detainee. In this campaign we are accused of committing torture in the prisons. However, there has not been a single instance of a tortured prisoner, not only since the victory of the revolution but even during the war—not even then, when any act could be justified on the pretext of securing information to save the troops, to win a battle.

[Mina] Not a single case?

[Castro] There was not a single case. There were hundreds of prisoners—you could look at the list of all their names—but not one of those prisoners suffered humiliation or assault. We almost always released prisoners, which helped us win the war because we earned prestige and great authority in the eyes of the enemy troops. They trusted us. At first nobody surrendered, but eventually people surrendered en masse. Our revolution was carried out on the basis of a series of ideas and values, a profound awareness among the people, and a rejection of crime and torture. This policy has been maintained with absolute honesty without ever a single exception. Moreover Cuba is the only country where the police have never been used against the people in a revolutionary process such as this, in 28 years. There has never been an instance of a people's demonstration dispersed by the police, not a single case of antipeople repression using dogs, tear gas, or rubber bullets. By all means visit the streets and countryside of Cuba and ask a citizen whether he has ever once heard talk about anyone being tortured or assassinated or disappearing in our country. There is so much talk about torture but it emerges that the world's healthiest prisoners are those leaving Cuban jails.

[Mina] Even Valladares?

[Castro] Valladares is leaving in perfect health. He pretended to be ailing for years but when he saw the piece of film that disproved it he could not continue: He stood up and walked off. He performed calisthenics every day in prison. His illness was a lie because it turned out that he was not an invalid—or a poet. Much of the literary material attributed to Valladares was written abroad.

[Mina] Nevertheless, after 28 years there are still political adversaries of yours in prison in Cuba.

[Castro] I do not accept the idea that anyone is detained for being a political adversary. In fact people are held for activities against the socialist state, against the revolution. We have, and will continue to have, counterrevolutionary prisoners because as long as our country is besieged and blockaded by the United States, as long as the United States instigates counterrevolutionary activities with every means at its disposal, until it abandons its plans to eliminate the revolutionary leaders, as long as it encourages such activities and there are people who carry them out we will have to defend ourselves. But it is not only in Cuba that there are activities against the state. I could put the same question to the Italians, French, or Spanish. In Spain there are antigovernment activities every day for one reason or another. Many people are arrested and sentenced to decades in prison. This, in the democratic Spain of Western Europe. I do not know how many prisoners there are in Italy—you should know better than I—but there are dozens of prisoners sentenced to exile or decades and decades in prison for activities against the system, against the state. Such cases can also be found in Germany, France, and even Sweden, which is a peaceful and neutral country. So what is strange about the occurrence of activities that provoke sanctions in a radical revolution such as ours, that hit many vested interests and that attracts the enmity of the United States? Whenever possible we have been merciful and generous: The best proof of this is that

the Giron mercenaries spent only 1 and 1/2 years in prison. Then a shipload of so-called heroes arrived in the United States. I could say that few have been as generous as us.

[Mina] Commander, let us talk a little about foreign policy. I know this may seem a banal question, but what is your opinion of Ronald Reagan? Is he responsible for the whole of America's controversial policy or is he in turn influenced by a system of economic vested interests?

[Castro] Well, Reagan is the representative of a particular sector, the representative of the thinking and vested interests of the military-industrial complex that advanced him in his political career, promoted him, and had him elected first governor then U.S. president. Reagan is a representative of the extreme Right, very reactionary, and a believer—sincere, in my opinion—in particular principles of an economic philosophy belonging almost to the last century. Reagan gives the impression of being someone who is generally uninformed, with few definite ideas, and sometimes very badly advised. Furthermore, he is someone with no ethics. Carter was unable to tell a lie. For Reagan any lie is acceptable if it is useful. He uses lies and simplistic arguments. He has said some incredible things that nobody in U.S. history has ever said, as far as I can recall. Kennedy, who was of a certain intellectual caliber, would never have compared the counterrevolutionary Somozist bandits to the founding fathers of the homeland, the volunteers who fought for U.S. independence with Lafayette, or the partisans who countered the Nazi occupation in Europe. Reagan, however, used all these examples when talking about the mercenary Somozaist gang. I believe there are many partisans and old militants who combated fascism. I do not know what they or the French or the founding fathers in their graves can be thinking when Reagan compares them to the Somozaist mercenaries in Nicaragua.

World's Freest [subhead]

[Mina] Cuba's relations with the United States improved under the Carter presidency. Artists, businessmen, and politicians came to Havana. From the Cuban viewpoint, does U.S. policy really change that much when a Democrat rather than a Republican is in power?

[Castro] Carter's policy with respect to Cuba was indeed constructive. I consider him one of the most honorable presidents. However, the differences between Democrats and Republicans are not very great. The latter are more conservative on social issues, the former more progressive. The latter are more in favor of protectionist measures, the former rather less so. Perhaps they differ greatly in the attention they pay to social expenditure—aid to invalids, welfare for the elderly. These are programs that Reagan in fact wants to eliminate. In foreign policy they have maintained more or less the same position.

[Mina] Commander, in 1964 you said: "We can wait 20 years before resuming diplomatic and commercial relations with the United States." You kept your word on this too. However, in view of the present foreign debt crisis, do you envisage postponing the restoration of diplomatic relations with the United States a further 20 years?

[Castro] No less than 28 years have gone by and some steps forward have been made. We have interest sections: They have one in Havana, we have one in Washington. Thus in fact diplomatic relations of a sort do exist. However political relations are terrible, no kind of economic relations exist, and U.S. hostility toward Cuba remains very great. So I would say that, yes, we could go for another 20 years without resuming relations with the United States because it has forced us to do without it, to seek to resolve our own problems. In this sense, therefore, we are the freest country in the world; we are a country that has no economic dependence on the United States. Every other country has a greater or lesser degree of dependence on the United States, but we have none. I consider this a privilege. However, we are not reluctant to maintain normal diplomatic relations, including economic relations. It would be useful to us, but neither vital nor essential.

[Mina] You have always maintained that the revolution is an internal affair of each country. Nevertheless over the years you have helped the Sandinistas and Angola's MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola] to some extent in gaining power. However, you now seem to doubt the miraculous virtues of the revolution in as world dominated by the IMF and the Pentagon's military-industrial might. So what is your opinion of the revolution now?

[Castro] The revolution cannot be exported. I have always borne this criterion in mind and I still think the same way. Sometimes we have believed that the objective conditions for a revolutionary eruption existed but the subjective conditions have failed to materialize. Our experience has taught us that here, where the objective conditions seemed to be lacking, they did in fact exist. If we analyzed conditions in Cuba we would see that the subjective factor played an important role. In other countries there were better objective conditions for a revolution than in Cuba. Nobody can export the conditions that make a revolution possible. Nobody can export Somoza with his 50 years of domination, the pillaging of the country, the appropriation of all wealth, repression, and the economic crisis—all factors that combined to create the objective situation that then made the development of the revolutionary movement possible. Then the subjective conditions emerged and the revolution was born.

True, we have extended our solidarity and modest cooperation to the Sandinist revolutionaries, but without the objective conditions, without the Sandinistas' efforts, without the Nicaraguan people's struggle, the revolutionary victory would have been impossible in that country.

So extending solidarity, granting a form of cooperation to a revolutionary movement, a revolutionary process, does not mean exporting the revolution. The same is happening in El Salvador—a heroic, extraordinary, and remarkable struggle. You could say that the Salvadoran revolutionaries have written an indelible chapter in the history of a small country of 20,000 square km that has come up against a flood of equipment, weapons, technology, and military leadership from the United States. They have resisted for over 6 years and the United States has not succeeded in crushing the Salvadoran revolution. The aid they receive is minimal because in practice there is no possibility of receiving real aid from abroad. They have made the best of their own resources. You cannot really export the revolution anywhere. Not even to Angola. The Angolan patriots' struggle is 20 years old. Yes, we have extended some political support, trained officers, and granted some modest cooperation. We granted the most cooperation when they had already gained independence. The South African racists had penetrated southern Angola, invaded the country, and were advancing at high speed toward Angola. Then we sent proper military units. Until that time the aid to the MPLA was rather modest; we were involved in the use and training of a number of officers—and Angola had already gained independence.

Price of Sugar [subhead]

[Mina] You say that Cuba survives on its own strength. Is it not also partly thanks to the $1 million a day that the Soviet Union gives you?

[Castro] Not a million! The imperialists, the United States, calculate the price of sugar on the marginal world market, which is not the price of sugar in Europe or what the United States pays when it imports it, and they compare this to the prices that the Soviet Union and the socialist countries pay us. They call the difference a subsidy. In other words, the fact that we have established the kind of just and fair trading relations that should exist between developed and underdeveloped countries—something that we propose to all the world's underdeveloped countries in their relations with the developed capitalist world (an objective which is, for that matter, one of the principles of the new international economic order that we have achieved with the socialist countries)—this fact, as I was saying, is used to formulate an erroneous, arbitrary, and manipulated calculation. Because in normal relations, sugar is sold at a much higher price than the minimal one of the world market—a market depressed by EEC dumping and U.S. protectionist measures. We receive credits, as many countries of the world have received them. We do not have a world bank to grant us credit, or an IMF, or an American Development Bank. The only countries that have been able to grant us credits on advantageous terms are the socialist countries; we receive credits from them and we invest them.

[Mina] You were well acquainted with Khrushchev, Brezhnev, Andropov, and now Gorbachev too. What impression does he make on you; how does he differ from his predecessors?

[Castro] Analyzing the personalities of a friendly country is a delicate matter. However, I will tell you frankly that Khrushchev was a good friend. He was the leader of the Soviet Union when our relations were first established. When the Yankees stopped importing our sugar the Soviets bought it instead; when they stopped our oil supplies thanks to their control over shipping, the multinationals, and the refineries, the Soviet Union supplied us with oil. Khrushchev's attitude was very friendly toward us, so the least one can do is express a sense of gratitude. Khrushchev resembled a Russian peasant—very astute, very cunning, very energetic. He liked to joke a great deal—sometimes perhaps too much; sometimes his jokes were coarse, not with us but with his comrades. I cannot judge anything else. There were problems at one point concerning the October crisis. In relations with us he committed an error that hurt us a great deal. However, that does not tarnish, still less obscure, our feelings of gratitude toward him.

[Mina] What was that error?

[Castro] It concerned the October crisis; I do not know whether this is the time to discuss it. Well, there were indeed moments of great tension; we ourselves believed that a conflict was inevitable and were resigned to it and determined to face the danger. It was sad and painful but we would not have surrendered. That was our position—not mine or the party's but the entire people's. The people were calm; it was a very tense time; it was obvious that an incident could occur at any moment because we were already shooting at American aircraft that had begun hedgehopping. We had no surface-to-air missiles but we did have antiaircraft artillery—hundreds of batteries manned by the Cubans. We reached our own conclusions and informed those in charge of the Soviet units present that we believed that hedgehopping should be prevented because it would make a surprise attack easier. We made the decision and informed them that we would open fire. Indeed we did open fire on all the hedgehoppers the following day. It was then that one of the antiaircraft batteries in Oriente province brought down one or two aircraft. Then Carlos Franqui came up with the theory that I wanted to spark off a war. Instead we had simply established that we could not allow hedgehopping over our territory and that it was necessary to respond. That was our theory and I am sure it was correct. The flights were suspended, but then were were forced to open fire again after the solution of the crisis. At that moment of tension Khrushchev took certain initiatives, perhaps prompted by the very agitated situation: He sent out a proposal without consulting with us and thus we discovered from public sources that a request to withdraw the batteries had been made. That seemed to us truly futile. I believe the crisis could have been resolved even better with a little more calm and

steadfastness, but at least there should have been discussions with us, and the Americans should have been told that it was necessary to talk with Cuba.

[Mina] Now let us talk about Gorbachev...

[Castro] Gorbachev, yes, I have had the opportunity to see him. I did not know him before he took over the post of party general secretary. We have been in touch by letter, and by telephone after his appointment. At that time there was a cyclone here which caused a great deal of damage. It crossed the whole country, from one side to the other. It was at the end of 1985, and he spontaneously phoned us and offered us his help. He sent considerable food aid in grain and rice, because the cyclone had destroyed all the banana plantations, uprooted the sugarcane, and caused grave damage to agriculture. He even gave us goods worth tens of millions of dollars. This was his first great gesture.

[Mina] Commander, do you believe that Gorbachev will succeed in implementing his policy—the policy of change which he wishes to adopt?

[Castro] Gorbachev has really succeeded in convincing the world through a coherent, courageous, and flexible policy that the Soviet Union wants peace, so as to neutralize almost all the U.S. Government's pretexts for opposing progress in the struggle against the arms race. It has been a matter of bold and courageous stances in foreign policy, which I believe will have an impact, and the Soviet Union and Gorbachev will soon have to be given much of the credit for taking the first steps toward nuclear disarmament. This is my opinion as regards foreign policy. He is also taking courageous steps as far as domestic policy is concerned. I believe that a proportion of resources should be earmarked for social development. It is obvious that a developing country should place the main emphasis on economic development, but it must not forget social development. And in the Soviet Union, where there has been considerable social development, Gorbachev has vigorously asserted that it is not enough. I regard this as an essential political factor.

Sepulveda Amor Meets with USSR's Shevardnadze
FL242358 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2031 GMT 24 Sep 87

[By Roberto Gonzalez, correspondent]

[Text] United Nations, 24 Sep (NOTIMEX)—Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor met last night for more than an hour with his Soviet counterpart, Eduard Shevardnadze, to discuss topics of importance to both nations.

During the meeting, the two foreign ministers discussed world disarmament, the Central American crisis, the role of the New Delhi Group in verifying that the prohibition of nuclear tests is being adhered to, and the problems of development in Third World countries.

The conclusion is that there is a political atmosphere that allows serious negotiations to be held in the area of control and reduction of weapons, said Sepulveda Amor after the meeting. The Mexican foreign secretary said the meeting with Shevardnadze was held within the traditional framework established at the UN General Assembly.

The Soviet foreign minister expressed his willingness to accept the good services of the New Delhi Group or of the Group of Six—Mexico, Greece, Argentina, India, Sweden, and Tanzania—to verify on site that any disarmament agreements signed with the Soviet Union and the eventual prohibition of nuclear tests are honored.

Shevardnadze said the USSR has a minimum of four nuclear tests planned a year, if an agreement is not signed prohibiting this.

PRI Candidates Still Under Examination
PA271555 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 18 Sep 87 pp 1, 10

[Article by Aurora Berdejo Arvizu: "Lugo Gil Says: None of the Six PRI Candidates Is Left Out"]

[Excerpt] "The president of the republic does not impose decisions on PRI." PRI has not ruled out any of its candidates, but neither have any of its sectors, organizations, or militants made or will make statements in support of any of them.

PRI Secretary General Humberto Lugo Gil made the above statements yesterday. He asserted that the PRI militants and sectors will elect the PRI presidential candidate. He stated that it is "still too soon to make statements on the various candidates" and that "the five candidates that end up not being elected will undoubtedly continue serving the country, the revolutionary government, and our party." He also explained the reasons for the silence of the six "distinguished PRI members."

Lugo Gil stressed: "Concerning their responsibilities with the public administration, the six candidates continue performing their important tasks in the government. As presidential candidates, they answered the call of their party. They cannot do anything else." He based his statements on what the PRI statutes establish:

He said: "Article 168, Paragraph 2 establishes that proselytizing campaigns will only be permitted once the candidates have been registered.' All PRI members must strictly abide by this provision."

Lugo Gil stated that the statute clearly explains why none of the PRI candidates have carried out any actions until the statutory times and conditions allow.

Similarly, Lugo Gil stressed the institutionality and great loyalty that the six distinguished PRI candidates have shown toward their party and government."

With his great political career within the Mexican party and legislative system, Lugo Gil agreed to answer 10 of the main questions that most Mexicans, PRI members, and politicians in general ask themselves now that many people believe the countdown of the presidencial candidacy period has already begun.

As an expert on the rules of the Mexican political system, Lugo Gil talked about the role of the president of the republic during the election of the PRI presidential candidates, disagreements within PRI, the appearances of the six PRI presidential candidates. He also discussed why the PRI leaders invited them to present their viewpoints concerning the main problems that Mexico is presently facing.

Lugo Gil reiterated his respect for the ideas of other political forces, as well as his total disagreement with "the attempts to undermine our party's unity that some groups or individuals, who do not represent any large sector, are carrying out for personal interests." He also discussed the activities that PRI is carrying out before the announcement of its presidential candidate in order to continue being the country's foremost political force.

After he explained that none of the six presidential candidates has been ruled out yet and that they continue being examined by PRI, Lugo Gil answered the following question:

[Berdejo] What role does the president of the republic play during the process of selection of the PRI presidential candidate?

[Lugo] The president of the republic does not impose any decision on the party. As a national leader, his voice is very important. We are a party comprised of sectors and organizations; therefore, all decisions are made only by PRI militants and sectors. Consensus is a party's theoretical and practical rule. Consensus determines the party's life, strategies, programs, and the selection of its presidential candidates. We apply statutory norms in all cases. [passage omitted]

PPS Persents Platform for Elections

PA260340 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 18 Sep 87 p 3

[Text] The Popular Socialist Party [PPS] presented its electoral platform for the forthcoming federal elections, scheduled for July 1988, to the Mexican people at a news conference yesterday.

The press conference was held at a Mexico City hotel and PPS Secretary General, Jorge Cruickshank Garcia, stated that his party believed that the need for people to seriously discuss solutions to their most urgent problems was far more important than the subject of candidates for the presidency.

Cruickshank Garcia, accompanied by other PPS National Directorate members, detailed the PPS plan to enable most Mexicans to emerge from the crisis and for the next government to be integrated by democratic forces.

He added that the PPS expects that working class representatives will be strongly influential in forming the presidential cabinet and in leading government firms.

He also stated that the requirement for all political parties to present and file an electoral platform is very healthy for the country's democracy since more importance is given to the parties programs than to individuals.

Cruickshank stated that in the country's present condition, the PPS believes that a plan to stop and revert the brutal impoverishment that the country has been suffering for the past 5 years is urgently required; a plan that will develop the national economy with independence; a plan that will strengthen the democratic regime and lead to social progress; a plan that will promote the struggle for peace, anti-imperialism, solidarity, and strengthen our foreign policy.

Addressing the media, the PPS leader called on the Mexican people to begin a great historic debate about the PPS plan.He also demanded that the contradictory alliance between the state bourgeoisie and the counterrevolutionary, pro-imperialist bourgeoisie be broken.

The 300-point PPS platform plan, which is open for the public's comments and suggestions, stresses economic proposals to help stop and revert the people's impoverishment. It also emphasizes the establishment of a flexible wage scale; revision of the guaranteed prices for peasant settlements, communities, and small farmers; strict price controls; and the arrest of people involved in price gouging, monopolies, hoarding, and speculation, as well as the confiscation of the merchandise involved.

Regarding the country's development strategy, the PPS calls for more state involvement in planning, distribution, and production.

The PPS also asks that national proposals be submitted to Congress for evaluation and approval.

This political party notes that financing for development should come from the resources gained by the state through taxes, and that a true and deep tax reform should be carried out by the state enterprises.

It added that credit should be sought only in limited amounts; that any conditions similar to the ones imposed by the IMF should be rejected, and that the country should fight internationally for the establishment of a new economic order.

The PPS proposes that the parallel banking system [la banca paralela] be eliminated, and that currency exchange controls be reestablished with punishments for those who violate these rules.

The political organization's plan stressed the need to strengthen the democratic regime by including authentic representatives of the revolutionary, nationalistic, democratic and patriotic forces within the national government and excluding reactionary, counterrevolutionary, and pro-imperialist forces.

Belize

Barrow Discusses Relations With Guatemala

FL241720 Bridgetown CANA in English 1701 GMT 23 Sep 87

[Text] Belmopan, Belize, Sept 23, CANA—Belize's foreign minister, Dean Barrow, has said that although progress has been made towards a settlement of the country's longstanding territorial dispute with Guatemala, prospects for an early settlement remain unlikely.

Barrow, who made the comments during a recent parliamentary caucus of the ruling United Democratic Party [UDP], observed that over the past two and a half years, events of fundamental importance have occurred to give new impetus to Belizean diplomacy and the process of seeking a negotiated settlement.

He said the UDP's election to office in December 1984, followed by a return to constitutional democracy in Guatemala, had "presented a favourable opportunity for movement in the search of a solution."

Barrow said the incumbent administration had communicated to Britain concern that its defence commitment to Belize should be shored up, and had received a firmer assurance from London.

Since independence in 1981, Britain has maintained a garrison of about 1,500 men here for an "appropriate period" to bolster Belize's security in view of the Guatemalan claim to this country.

Barrow said Belize was given the additional assurance by Britain that in determining the appropriate period for maintaining the garrison here, nothing would be done which would result in the creation of a "security vacuum" in Belize.

That, it seems to me, comes sufficiently close to the infinite commitment which we sought, Barrow said.

The Belizean Government has had a series of informal contacts with Guatemalan officials over the past two years, including an official round of talks in April of this year.

Barrow noted that the April meeting in Miami failed to provide a breakthrough, and indeed the Guatemalan position remained one of insistence on land cession.

"It was perhaps unrealistic to expect that the first formal exchange between the two governments would immediately result in a dramatic solution to the almost two century old dispute," he said.

He added: It is clear now that an incremental approach and patient diplomacy are what will be required to find a way forward.

Barrow also noted that the Guatemalan Government has dropped the "Belize is ours" claim and the neighbouring country's posture in international fora had ceased being hostile to Belize.

The tactic of challenging Belizean credentials has been abandoned and Guatemalan delegates to international gatherings have been at pains to extend the olive branch of recognition and respect to their Belizean counterparts.

Costa Rica

President Arias Addresses United Nations

PA240449 New York United Nations Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 23 Sep 87

[Speech by President Oscar Arias Sanchez at the UN General Assembly on 23 September—recorded]

[Text] Mr President, Mr UN Secretary General, Honorable Ambassadors, ladies and gentlemen: I come from a country that you all know very well. You know our values, our efforts to develop, our struggle for peace. I come here to seek your help, to tell you that we need help from all countries of goodwill so that peace will prevail in Central America. I am here to request the strength of yesterday's and today's principles, to attain peace, liberty, and democracy in Central America. I am here to seek the political and diplomatic strength of the nations of the world so that we can all follow a new path that will ensure peace in the region.

One year ago, I came here to say that the fate of Central America was linked to a decision about war and peace. I want to tell you now that the five Central American nations aspire to a peaceful future.

Political democracy must be established in all countries of our America. Freedom must be enjoyed by all its inhabitants and human rights must be zealously respected in all our nations. In the peace plan we signed in Guatemala City we requested a dialogue and amnesty. We want a cease-fire to take place as soon as possible; we demand all foreign powers that intervene in the region to cease military aid; we want a guarantee that no territories will be used to attack other states; we seek an arms reduction; we sought national and international supervision by the Contadora Group. These points reflect years of work by the Contadora Group and they express one century of work for democracy and freedom in my country, Costa Rica.

Some of us are weary of shedding tears. We have a deep desire to find shared ideals to work together for development. We want to take the region's destiny in our own hands. In the agreement we signed in Guatemala City we committed ourselves to work in good faith for peace. Let us be clear. Noone has a right to judge the success or failure of the Central American path to peace because of the alleged noncompliance with deadlines. Some of the agreement's objectives can be complied with in less time than has been alloted. Some steps might require more time. As long as the progress toward national reconciliation and the enjoyment of freedom and a cessation of hostilities continues, peace will prevail. We find long periods of dictatorship and very serious social injustices at the root of Central American problems; we find

decades of heart-wrenching suffering and hunger [words indistinct] were and still are witnesses of the miserable way of life suffered by millions of men and [words indistinct].

With your help, with all the efforts of men and nations of goodwill, we will be successful. We are determined to try. Let us do it now, and let us do it together. Thank you very much. [applause]

El Salvador

Rivera y Damas, Ungo Meet in Panama

PA281540 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2337 GMT 27 Sep 87

[Text] Panama City, 27 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—San Salvador Archbishop Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas has met in Panama City with Salvadoran guerrilla representatives to work out "operational aspects" regarding the talks scheduled for 4 October between the Jose Napoleon Duarte government and the country's rebels.

FDR President Guillermo Manuel Ungo confirmed today to ACAN-EFE that Msgr Rivera y Damas had a 4-hour meeting with the rebel leaders here on Saturday. Among other topics, they discussed the level of the delegations that will participate in the talks.

The leader of the Salvadoran guerrillas' political wing added that this meeting is just the beginning of a series of meetings that ought to take place before the resumption of the dialogue with the Duarte government, which is scheduled take place at the apostolic nuncio's office in San Salvador.

Although the guerrillas' political leader did not confirm the report, unofficial sources said that also attending the meeting in addition to Ungo and Rivera y Damas were Salvador Samayoa, member of the FMLN political-diplomatic commission, and other FDR representatives.

Although he did not mention dates or places, Ungo added that other meetings will be held soon prior to the dialogue with the government, which was interrupted 3 years ago.

"This has just begun," Ungo noted. He also said that holding the meeting in Panama is nothing new because country has traditionally served as the site for negotiations between the guerrillas and the Salvadoran Government.

On previous occasions, sources close to the Panamanian Government have not confirmed or denied the meetings between Rivera y Damas and the guerrilla representative owing to the "private" nature of these meetings. However, they stressed Panama's mediation role in all matters regarding a dialogue.

According to sources that declined to be identified, "Panama trusts and believes in the Esquipulas II agreements, and it will always help to find peace in Central America, as a member of the Contadora Group."

After meeting with Ungo on 8 September, Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle announced that he would intercede as mediator between the Salvadoran Government and guerrillas in order to agree on resuming the dialogue between the two sides.

In 1985, the Panamanian Government mediated for the release of President Duarte's daughter, Ines Guadalupe, who was kidnapped by an FMLN commando unit and exchanged for war prisoners.

FDR-FMLN Agrees to Preparatory Meeting

PA281309 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1228 GMT 28 Sep 87

[Communique "No 2" issued by the FDR-FMLN on 27 September—place not given]

[Text] 1. On 26 September, a delegation from our two fronts met in Panama with Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas, who is mediating the dialogue. We understand the meeting was to discuss preparations for the meeting to be held on 4 October, the date proposed by Duarte, for which there is very little time left.

2. Msgr Rivera conveyed to our delegation the Salvadoran Government's proposal to the effect that both parties should hold a preparatory meeting to discuss the organizational aspects.

3. We have been flexible and have decided to accept the preparatory meeting proposed by the government, hoping it will serve to resolve [words indistinct] in an effective manner the dialogue meeting's organizational aspects.

4. In view of this situation, we feel it is advisable to make the following clarifications:

a) We will continue making efforts so this meeting will be held on the scheduled date.

b) The previous experience [words indistinct] showed preparatory meetings were used to hinder the actual holding of the dialogue. We hope that on this occasion the preparatory meeting will in fact serve to ensure the meeting is held.

27 September 1987

Church Expresses Hope for Talks

PA290101 San Salvador Television Nacional in Spanish 1400 GMT 27 Sep 87

[Homily by Msgr Gregorio Rosa Chavez at Metropolitan Cathedral in San Salvador—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] We will now examine the events of the week. I do not want to maintain the suspense until the end of the homily and that is why I will begin my commentary on some of the events of the past week by announcing that everything seems to indicate that next Sunday we will have the long-awaited third round of talks here in San Salvador.

The nuncio told me yesterday that the the apostolic nunciature, or the pope's house in El Salvador, as Msgr Francesco de Mittis likes to call it, will be the site for this new encounter between the government and the FDR-FMLN. I can also inform the nation that mediator Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas will meet with the members of the domestic dialogue commission. He left the country yesterday to meet with representatives of the fronts to organize details of this third encounter. We talked by telephone and he told me that everything is going well, although not as quickly as he would like. We expect Msgr Rivera to return this morning.

What can come out of this dialogue? This queston arises spontaneously. I prefer to leave the answer to the experts because the church's interest in a nonviolent solution through serious talks that will result in the best for our people is obviously expected.

As pastor, I see in the date and place selected for the talks a clear message of hope and demand; of hope because it places us before the unsurpassable prospects of faith, which open our eyes to unsuspected horizons and allow us to reach a depth not penetrated by the most [words indistinct] of the analyses by sociologists and politicians. In this light I see the Guatemala document, the already famous Esquipulas II, as His response to the prayers and suffering of so many people here and in many other parts of our planet. If this is God's answer, it is a form of grace, and if it is grace, it implies tremendous responsibility. That is why I believe the talks coming up are also a demand, a demand principally on those who are going to sit down at the same table at which the pope ate with the Salvadoran bishops on 6 March 1983. It is the demand to assume the attitude of the holy father.

It is healthy to textually repeat those inspiring words, spoken during a mass in our midst: The dialogue demanded by the church is not for a tactical truce to strengthen positions and continue the struggle, but for a sincere effort to answer, with agreements, the anguish, pain, exhaustion, and fatigue of so many who yearn for peace; so many who want rebirth from the ashes and look for the warmth in the smile of children far from terror and in a climate of democratic coexistence.

It is impossible to say it in a more impressive and eloquent way.

The dialogue that took place during the St Francis of Assisi festival is also a demand for the political and labor leaders and those of other sectors. It is a [words indistinct] demand to try to find together a general solution for the country's situation. It is obvious that this presupposes a realistic desire to make concessions for the benefit of the common welfare of the majority of the Salvadoran people. [passage omitted]

MPSC, PSD Merge To Run in Elections

PA251930 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1802 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Text] San Salvador, 24 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—Two Salvadoran political parties opposed to the Christian Democratic Party, one social christian and the other social democratic, have decided to unite their efforts to seek a politically negotiated solution to the Salvadoran crisis.

The Social Christian People Movement (MPSC)—A member of the FDR, the political wing of the Salvadoran guerrillas—and the Social Democrat Party (PSD) merged to jointly participate in the 1988 and 1989 elections.

In a communique issued this morning by the PSD's Political Commission and the MPSC'S top leadership, the two organizations noted that they met in Mexico on 20 September to "discuss their views on the Salvadoran and Central American situation."

According to the official communique, the points of agreement between the two political parties "have been very broad and are designed to express their decision to search together for specific means to reach a politically negotiated solution to the Salvadoran crisis."

The joint communique stated that MPSC leader Ruben Zamora, FDR vice president, who has been in exile in Nicaragua since 1980, announced last week that he was returning to El Salvador to lead his party.

PSD leader Reni Roldan is a member of the National Reconciliation Commission, a group created in the wake of "Esquipulas II." The commission's objective is to verify the democratization process, the cease-fire, and the amnesty in El Salvador.

An MPSC spokesman, who has been working in El Salvador for over 2 years and declined to be identified for security reasons, confirmed that a far-reaching effort is under way among the leftist political parties to participate in El Salvador's political struggle.

"We are striving to forge true political conditions," he said. The spokesman noted that the work carried out must fall within the "Esquipulas II" framework.

The participation of the leftist parties will motivate Jose Napoleon Duarte's government to hold direct negotiations with the FMLN.

Honduras

Contreras Asks for Esquipulas Exemption

PA251455 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 23 Sep 87 p 4

[Text] Tegucigalpa—Foreign Secretary Carlos Lopez Contreras has asked his Central American colleagues to allow the Honduran Government to violate the Guatemalan agreement since the government is not obligated to create the national reconciliation commission for which the agreement calls.

This information was given to *Tiempo* by sources close to foreign ministers' meeting in Managua last week.

At that meeting, Foreign Secretary Lopez Contreras unexpectedly presented the draft of a declaration stating that Honduras is not obligated to comply with that point of the Esquipulas II agreement.

According to our sources, the foreign ministers of Guatemala, Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Nicaragua flatly rejected the Honduran Government's position, noting that approving such a request would be the equivalent of ignoring the Central American presidents' endorsements of the Esquipulas II treaty.

In Honduras, various institutions have criticized the government for resisting this commitment. The Episcopal Conference of the Catholic Church has spoken in favor of creating the commission.

Guatemala, El Salvador, and Nicaragua have already created their respective National Reconciliation Commissions, and the Costa Rican Government announced before going to the foreign ministers' meeting in Managua that it will create a commission to verify compliance with the Esquipulas II commitments.

Nicaragua

Daniel Ortega To Announce Cease-Fire Zone

PA290425 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 29 Sep 87

[Text] Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega today said that in a few days he will define the zone of the cease-fire between Sandinist forces and contras. After meeting for more than 2 hours with former Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins, Ortega said that in a few days he will announce the names of the places where the troops will be concentrated to comply with the cease-fire stipulated by the Esquipulas II accords.

On Tuesday, Ortega announced the implementation of the cease-fire as another step in compyling with the peace accords signed in Guatemala. He said: We already have abundant experience in handling cease-fires, particularly on the Atlantic coast 2 years ago.

[Begin Ortega recording] [Words indistinct] has continued to work with countries for peace in Central America. At this time [words indistinct] welcome to Nicaragua. We have exchanged a number of ideas [words indistinct] good Central Americans to work consistently for peace. We have explained to former President Herrera Nicaragua's position on enforcing the Esquipulas II accords and the steps that have been taken. We also told him about our position that the international verification commission can be formed and become operational. This way, the commission can be backed by the Central American governments so that, after 90 days, the first stage of this (?process) can be completed and we can have an international commission always willing to act and work as planned under the Guatemala accords. We have listened to President Herrera and his (?explanation) of the current situation. We share his concern regarding the current situation [words indistinct] hopes that we will be able to forge ahead in this struggle for peace. [end recording]

[Begin Herrera Campins recording] As President Ortega has said, [words indistinct] and a cordial meeting we held tonight, I am an old friend of the Nicaraguan people, both in their struggle against the Somoza tyranny and the task of reconstruction since 1979.

Always sincerely expressing my opinions from the Christian Democratic ideological position—which you are well aware of—has allowed me for so many years to maintain, while I was president and afterwards, cordial relations with President Ortega. I told him my views, thoughts, opinions, comments, observations, and disagreements in the best good faith because I consider myself a crusader for peace in Central America, for a sincere and stable peace that must be firmly based on a pluralist democratization.

Therefore, I think that the Esquipulas II declaration, signed by the five Central American presidents, is the most solemn and conciliatory in honor, sincerity, and seriousness in all these years of [words indistinct] and politics of the region. I am completely convinced that the term of 90 days is too brief to resolve the problems that have existed for many years. However, as I told President Ortega, the main thing is that as much as possible be accomplished in these 90 days so that when verification and control by the international commission comes along and when the presidents analyze the accomplishments, they will see concrete steps have been taken toward those two objectives, which are the desire not only of Nicaragua and Central America, but Latin America as well, with the approval of the world. The two objectives are pluralist democratization and pacification.

In this respect, I can tell you that my experience, capacity, and will as secretary general of the International Christian Democracy and leader of the Venezuelan Social Christian COPEI party is truly committed to those lofty Latin American and patriotic purposes. Thank you. [end recording]

Daniel Ortega on'Face the Nation' Program

PA262215 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1527 GMT 26 Sep 87

[Speech by President Daniel Ortega Saavedra at the "Face the People" meeting at the Olof Palme Convention Center in Managua to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Luisa Amanda Espinoza Association of Nicaraguan Women, AMNLAE—live]

[Text] A few hours ago I visited the military hospital where our comrades wounded in war are recovering. Among the last comrades wounded in combat is a son of

Housing and Human Services Minister Miguel Ernesto Vigil. His name is Felix Vigil, 18, and because of the war, because of the aggression, he has had to fulfill his military service obligation. He has met this obligation in an exemplary manner. He enlisted for military service voluntarily and has been in service for more than a year. He was wounded in the San Pedro Norte area in a clash against a mercenary group.

Some of the comrades there are wounded. Some of them died in combat. I talked with Felix. Despite his serious condition, the first concern he expressed, the first feeling, was his sorrow over the death of his comrades and his brother. The memory of his brother and his comrades makes him very sad. He mentioned the ones he saw fall in combat one by one. He worked as a sanitation worker in the [name indistinct] Battalion.

Even though he is facing these difficult, harsh, and traumatic circumstances, this comrade, this brother wanted to know when he will be well enough (?and ready) to continue fighting. He wants to continue fighting and to return to his place in combat. This reminds us of something we must never lose sight of—the current situation in our country. Although some winds are blowing, bringing us hopes of peace, peace is not yet a reality in Nicaragua.

We are going through a terrible war that has brought death and sacrifice to Nicaraguan youth, and it also brings sorrow and suffering to the families and mothers of those killed and maimed in combat. This is the greatest problem, the greatest sorrow our homeland is suffering. When I say this, I am not trying to detract from the strength of the agreements signed in Guatemala and the steps Nicaragua has been taking to comply with these agreements. However, we must not delude ourselves. War is an everyday occurrence here, not only in the case of the [words indistinct] young man, but in the case of hundreds of peasants who work in cooperatives that are attacked by mercenary forces. They are dying every day. The cooperatives and the transportation system are being attacked and peasants are dying. Men, women, children, and the elderly are dying. A short time ago a bus was attacked and a 71-year-old woman and a 12-year-old girl were killed.

This is the situation in Nicaragua. This situation is being promoted and abetted by the U.S. President. He has delivered a very clear warmongering, bellicose, warlike message at the United Nations, which excuses terrorism, his policy of terrorism against the Nicaraguan people. We would like to hear voices in Latin America that are strong and energetic enough to condem the Reagan administration's policy. [applause]

We are worried about the attitude of some Latin American governments that do have the energy and voice to complain to Nicaragua, but not courage enough to complain about and condemn the U.S. Government's terrorist policy. Yet, we know that in their attitude and spirit the Latin American peoples unanimously condemn and repudiate the terrorist policy of the U.S. Government. The time has come for the Latin American governments to heed this feeling of the Latin American peoples and to muster the necessary courage to reject this policy of the Reagan administration.

Under the circumstances, what prevails here is the war and the bloodletting of the Nicaraguan people. Our main task continues to be to fight the mercenaries. We are obliged to continue struggling and fighting the mercenaries to secure the peace to which we Nicaraguans aspire. However, we are also obliged to work intensely to fulfill the Guatemala agreements. These tasks do not contradict each other; on the contrary, they complement each other.

However, this hope for peace in Central America must not lead we Nicaraguans to believe that peace is just around the corner; we should not think things are so simple. Recently, $3.5 million was approved for the mercenary forces. In other words, the U.S. Congress has not been able to stop the approval of funds for the mercenaries altogether and continues supplying them with more oxygen—more than physical, this oxygen is political. We also are worried because the U.S. congressmen—whether Democrats or Republicans—are discussing ways to destroy the Nicaraguan revolutionary process. On the one hand, the Republican senators, who toe the Reagan line, want to destroy the Nicaraguan revolution through military action, even if they have to invade us with troops. On the other hand, the Democrats want to destroy the Nicaraguan revolution by destabilizing it and by trying to force it to make concessions that would destroy the revolution and make it disappear. They want Nicaragua to be ruled again by the people who have been historically subservient to U.S. policy.

We must clearly bear in mind all of the statements, speeches, and particularly the actions of those who claim to be concerned about peace. However, what type of peace do they want for Nicaragua? A peace that would mean submission by the Nicaraguan people, a return to exploitative capitalist domination, or to Somozism without Somoza. Do we want this instead of the peace we Nicaraguans are defending? In other words, a worthy peace entailing no sacrifices for the revolution.

On the 10th anniversary of AMNLAE, which we are currently marking, I bring all Nicaraguan women a salute from the FSLN National Directorate and from the revolutionary government. [applause]

Closing Remarks

PA270402 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 2144 GMT 26 Sep 87

[Closing remarks by President Daniel Ortega Saavedra at the "Face the People" meeting at the Olof Palme Convention Center in Managua to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Luisa Amanda Espinoza Association of Nicaraguan Women, AMNLAE—live]

[Text] We are going to conclude this long meeting, in the course of which we hope to have had all the comrades

participate who wanted to. I see that some comrades would also have liked to speak, but the majority has demanded that there be no more speakers, since some of the topics were already getting repetitive.

First of all, I want us to greet the delegations from other countries that have been with us this morning and afternoon. There are delegations from the United States, [applause] from Cuba, [applause] from the Soviet Union, [applause] from Great Britain, [applause] from Panama, [applause] and from Sweden. [applause] Here is the Swedish delegate now; she apparently had had other activities. We are particularly honored by the presence of the delegation from Vietnam, presided over by Comrade [Tre Tron Li Yuang] who spent 11 years in jail in Vietnam during the U.S. occupation. [prolongued applause]

We are sorry if we have left out some delegation from some other fraternal country. So many representatives from foreign countries are here with us in Nicaragua now, and perhaps have not even been mentioned. However, it looks like no one has been left out. [shouts of: "Ah, Costa Rica"] [applause]

We will answer some questions now, after having listened to our ministers. Concerning the handing over of land and other contractual properties to all those who have been affected by agrarian reform measures, or to those who have had their lands confiscated—this matter is not considered in the Guatemala agreements, nor is it considered in the fundamental guidelines of the Nicaraguan revolutionary process. Therefore, the companeros and companeras who now have lands given to them under the agrarian reform need not be concerned, even if the former owner of those lands come forward in the course of the peace process. The former owner has no right to demand the return of those lands that have already been used under the agrarian reform measures to benefit the peasants. Citizens in our suburbs must also not be concerned. I think I heard someone who used to own lots say that he is going to reclaim those lots now because we are obligated under the peace agreements to deliver those lots back to him. Those lots are now the property of the humble, hard-working people who, with the support of MINVAH [Ministry of Housing and Human Settlements], are building their humble homes. And so on, concerning property. If a house that once belonged to a certain person was confiscated and is instead in the hands of a CDI [Child Development Center], that house is in the hands of that CDI forever. [applause] It will not be returned to those who used to own those properties, because they had really done nothing but steal properties from the people; they called themselves the owners of those properties that really belonged to the people. With the revolution, the people have truly recovered those properties that belonged to the people—who are, in reality, the sole owners.

Regarding the cease-fire, places where the [words indistinct] are to be located: This is being carefully considered and, in due time, as soon as possible, I would say within the next few days at the most, we are going to establish the zones where the cease-fire process is going to take place. We will concentrate troops in certain areas, and we will determine where these troops will be concentrated. These troops will cease their offensive operations and will only be there to conduct defensive operations. That is, they will be on alert, and, if they are attacked, they will defend themselves. Under these conditions the peace commissions will be able to move around in the territory to make contact with those who are conducting counterrevolutionary armed activities so that those who wish to do so may accept the cease-fire or take advantage of the amnesty law.

As far as children are concerned, we do not make any exceptions among children. We cannot differentiate between children of revolutionaries and children of Somozist guards. The children are absolutely not responsible for the act of their parents; thus, all children enjoy all the privileges and the support the revolution can give them, given the present conditions. We are aware, however, that the support we can give children is still very far from what our aims and aspirations are. We have many children out in the streets as vendors; we have many children doing the work of adults, we have many children who are not attending school. That is an inheritance from the past. We have been struggling against that inheritance, but we lack the resources to incorporate these children into the educational system and to support them by means of scholarships, so that they will not have to do the work of adults, so that they can exert themselves in the educational field. However, the war, our lack of resources, or rather the impoverishment our country suffers, limits us in our desire to give all Nicaraguan children the attention they deserve.

Concerning the amnesty, the Guatemala agreements do not demand that we give a general amnesty. They do not demand that from any country. Each one has the right in our country to give his point of view on amnesty. There are those who are in agreement with an amnesty across the board. Others do not agree. We, as a government, are obliged to take into consideration the opinion of the people, the opinion of all sectors, and, above all, the opinion of the majority of the Nicaraguan people. It is indisputable that, under the conditions our country has endured, it is practically impossible—for basic reasons, for reasons of the most elementary respect for the Nicaraguan people, for the fallen heroes and martyrs, for the families of those heroes and martyrs—it is practically impossible to have a total amnesty. That is just not possible. [applause]

When we mention general amnesty, we understand that it is an amnesty that would release everybody, everybody. There could be such a generous and general amnesty that even common criminals would be released, but here a general amnesty will not liberate the common criminals. It also will not release those former guards, or even those counterrevolutionaries who joined the counterrevolution—even if they had not been guards before—and who are now in prison for atrocious crimes.

These people cannot be covered by the amnesty. The amnesty can include, as it has already included, many Somozist guards who actually were not guilty of any significant crimes, because we cannot say that 100 percent of the Somozist guards committed crimes. It is true that a lot of the Somozist guards committed crimes. For many years we have been releasing many former Somozist guards when it has been proven that they actually had not committed any major crimes. There have been cases where, in the hurry to do justice—that is, because of the political necessity to apply revolutionary justice—some Somozist guards were sentenced to 30 years in jail; and later it was proven that they had been forcibly recruited and that they had been serving as guards for 1 month. They had been guards, let us say, from June to July. But it was discovered they had been Somozist guards; at that time nobody investigated how long they had been guards or whether they had committed crimes. They were thus sentenced to 30 years. The fact that they had been Somozist guards does not automatically turn them into people who cannot be favored by a partial, not total, amnesty.

Now, when we talk about a pardon, a pardon is more restricted. A person may be pardoned. A certain number of people can be pardoned. Amnesty, however, has a more ample scope; that is, it includes a larger number of prisoners—general amnesty includes, of course, all prisoners.

Then, in the Guatemala agreements, we spoke about amnesty. We did not qualify this amnesty; each country is thus going to apply amnesty in whatever way it deems most convenient. We, of course, take into account the opinion and the feeling of the majority of the Nicaraguan people, as we also take into account the opinion of other sectors of the population. We take into consideration the opinion of the Episcopal Conference; we take into consideration the opinion of the political parties; but we also have to take into consideration the opinion of the Nicaraguan mothers. And here, we arrive at the conclusion that it is impossible to apply a general amnesty; therefore, in any case, the amnesty is going to be only partial. [applause]

Concerning military service, it must exist, in respect for laws governing Patriotic Military Service. We are aware that on some occasions—and these are not isolated cases—to fill their quotas some comrades in charge of recruiting just go ahead and conscript people who perhaps are not even of the proper age for military service or else who should be exempted from the service due to illness or for some special—dramatic cases I have encountered in several places: a mother with three dead sons who finds that the military is recruiting her fourth and requests that the remaining son not be recruited, or if he does get recruited that he be left to serve behind the fighting lines. I feel it is fair to listen to this. On the other hand, there might be families with several children and some of them get recruited, and, when assigned to their duties, they are left in the rearguard.

We will have to be more careful in matters such as these, more watchful and more critical. We will have to keep a critical eye on mistakes and point them out, because we really do have problems of the kind that harm the Patriotic Military Service.

Other very controversial problems have been discussed here, such as the issues of abortion and women's sterilization. I remember that when we were fighting against Somoza we were convinced that the U.S. Government was promoting elaborate, scientific plans, based on very sound political arguments, to encourage a decrease in the population of developing countries. The United States did this, and still does, not out of any love or affection for the people in developing countries, but because revolutions inspire fear and terror in the United States. Insofar as imperialism or capitalism are not disposed to provide solutions to the developing countries through a just distribution of riches, instead they have been attempting for many years to freeze the population growth in these countries so that the exploitative minorities in the developing countries can proceed to exploit the people to their hearts' content—without the risk of a population growth that could threaten them with revolutionary changes in the developing countries. In the United States itself, efforts have been made to impede the growth of the black minority and hispanic populations because the United States is afraid. The United States fears a growth of the black population, of the latin population, because this is becoming a powerful force of resistance against the methods of domination that capitalism exerts in the United States over the black and latin populations.

Nicaragua is sparsely populated in contrast to its extensive, unpopulated territory. Even worse, it is being made the victim of a genocidal policy. When we estimate the numbers of casualties the Nicaraguan nation has suffered in these 7 years of U.S. aggression and have compared it to the number of casualties that the United States has suffered in its wars, beginning with World War I—that is, adding up the casualties of World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam—we find that the number of casualties in Nicaragua is larger than the number of casualties the United States has suffered since the first World War. Therefore, our country is being made the victim of a genocidal policy.

Yes. The best thing, as far as U.S. policy is concerned, is that the population growth in Nicaragua be limited, that the population growth decreases or is limited, so they will have the best conditions to continue their policy of aggression and their policy of terrorism, because those who are fighting in the vanguard are youths. At the beginning of this meeting I told one of the ministers that I had just been to visit a youngster wounded in combat. And how old is he? Eighteen years old. He turned 18 while in the service, and has been in the service for over a year.

One way of preventing us from having any more young people is by promoting the sterilization policy, to sterilize Nicaraguan women. Imagine what would happen!

Either sterilization or the promotion of abortion. As Comrade Dora Maria was explaining, we have to be very careful about this. For instance, let us say there is a comrade who has had a certain number of children—let us say four or five—and does not want to have any more. All right. But we cannot be channeling resources to sterilize a comrade who has had no children or who has had only one child. The conditions of this country do not permit that. This would even harm the country's development. Concerning abortion, one should use prevention rather than having to perform abortions because no matter how legal it is and how many new techniques are developed and used, abortion always entails a big risk to a woman. At the bottom of all this—I will tell you about my concern—even with all of our misery and all of our poverty, which cannot be denied, the truth is Nicaragua's population is sparse, and we are being made the victims of a genocidal policy. So I feel it would not be proper to come here to defend a policy in favor of the sterilization of women and in favor of abortion.

Of course, if we are going to speak about other countries with a high degree of technological and economic development, countries where riches abound, that is another reality. But we cannot transplant here, into our reality, the concepts about rights of women and equality of women that are applicable to those other societies with more development. We also find here very serious contradictions. In 1985, I visited very rich northern countries and found that these countries are very much concerned about losing their youth; they are becoming societies where the average population is 60 years of age in some cases. So they are concerned and alarmed. Why? Because these concepts have been developed there. Because they have riches and abundance, the women say: We want to be free, we want to be equal with men. But here is the problem: Women are the reproducers. Men cannot play that role. Men must depend on women to reproduce. Women have the very special ability. When women aspire to that independence, to that liberation, what happens? She negates the very continuity of the human species. Policies thus have to be promoted. Even some socialist countries have had this situation occur. They have to motivate women to have children; otherwise, they have to face the problem of a decreasing population. Population growth is not related to the mortality ratio, even though the conditions may be very good for development. I do not forget the criticism, the condemnation that we, as a revolutionary movement—as well as all of the Latin American revolutionary movements—expressed against the imperialist policies of the 1960's when they very intensively launched these projects for Latin America, African countries, and Asia, with the purpose of smothering the revolutionary processes by halting the increase in population.

It is true that there is misery and there is unemployment in those countries; however, the growth ratio is so strong that it overcomes the poverty, lack of medical attention, and infant mortality. The population grows quantitatively. This is what worries imperialist policy, because it is not willing to resolve the economic, social, and political problems for the Latin American, Asia, and African majorities.

It seems to me that this is a subject that must be handled very carefully here in Nicaragua, with an understanding of our own reality. Our reality is not the reality of a northern country, our reality is not the reality of a developed country. In a developed country—by its very development its own wealth—people get to be so rich and have so much that they start to elaborate concepts about what women's liberation should be. These concepts lead, even in extreme cases, to the denial of the reproduction of the human species. That is dangerous because then: Where is woman? Woman disappears. When we speak about equality, about the struggle for equality between men and women, we are speaking about equal rights. We are not saying that a woman has to be the same as a man. We are not looking for a transformation of women in all aspects so they will be the same as men, and then be left with only one sex on earth. That is not the idea. The idea is equality of rights, equality of opportunities. That is what the revolution propitiates, that is the space opened by the revolution.

It is true that there are very specific problems that must be discussed, that must be brought up by women, because women are more cognizant of the subjects. These problems must be brought up and [words indistinct] so that everybody understands what it is all about, and so the problem may be resolved jointly. So when a woman demands the CDI, she has all the right to demand the CDI. But do we have the ability, are we in a position to give everyone the CDI? We would like to give everybody the CDI, but we do not have the ability to give it to everybody. In other words, we lack the material means. We have the desire, but we lack the material means. We would like to have the country full of CDI's, and women would be then freed from the burden of having to mind the children—especially those women who have the burden all by thesmselves, because they do not have a partner. But in the reality of our country we have to be aw.. of the fact that we have few resources, and we have to make do with what we have. (?We have to channel the resources) to particular sectors. If a CDI has to be built now, and we have a certain amount of resources, that CDI will be built first in the rural areas, in a productive center. There, where coffee is being harvested, we have built CDI's in the rural areas, in the mountains, so peasant men and women will stay there and work and not decide to come to the city with the illusion that their problems are going to be resolved here. In the city we seek to build CDI's at the production centers, at the factories, at the working centers. It is there that we seek to build the CDI's.

When we speak about the equality of rights for women and all that—we made it very clear in the proclamation of the Sandinist Front—this is everybody's job; that is, it is not only a job for women.

We have had a historical problem here. Let us take the case of the Miskitos. In 1979, when I met the Miskitos for the first time, we discussed the subject. We cannot state that there existed any racial discrimination in Nicaragua against the Miskitos; there was an economic type of discrimination suffered equally by the Nicaraguan with white skin. He was also unemployed or was exploited when he did work, the same as the Miskito or the black Nicaraguan, or the mestizo Nicaraguan.

In this country, in the days of Somoza and in the past, people were exploited regardless of the color of their skin. There was a minority that exploited a humble majority—workers, peasants, artesans. This is a fact. There was exploitation that produced social discrimination. If a person is economically exploited that person is socially discriminated against. That person is discriminated against politically, and this was the situation in Nicaragua. Women were also discriminated against in our society—even more, because of the machismo factor. Machismo is a factor that has had and still has an impact in society. We are not going to claim that it has been eradicated as a result of the revolution and that we men have stopped being macho in spite of the fact that we are aware that it is necessary to eradicate machismo. We are struggling against machismo, but we cannot claim that we have stopped being macho, because we grew up with a macho mentality. However, the revolution has been able to root out the fundamental elements that fed the macho mentality. These elements were the kind of relationship that the previous regime and system had established here. Now we have a different system that opens possibilities for the participation of women in all fields. We protect their rights.

A woman comrade here has complained that in some work centers they are required to state that they are not pregnant before getting a job. This, as the comrade labor minister has explained, is against the law. This is not right. This is a discriminatory attitude. If a man were to be discriminated against because he has a physical defect, this is also discrimination. This type of error happens when there is a director of an enterprise who, in his search for productivity, is capable of obliterating anyone, regardless of sex. This is not a correct policy.

Women have specific problems; many that have been pointed out here. It is correct to deal with them through AMNLAE. However, I believe that the idea that AMNLAE must discuss any bill on women before it can be discussed by the National Assembly is debatable because then laws having to do with men would have to be discussed by men first. We would be denying ourselves something we have already secured: the National Assembly. What is the National Assembly? What is the origin of the National Assembly? It is the result of direct votes from men and women. The Sandinist representative at the National Assembly is not representing just the men of the Sandinist Front. He is not representing only the women of the Sandinist Front. He is representing all the men and women who voted for the Sandinist Front, which represents an opinion and has a specific program. The representative is defending a program. We are not to create another assembly to discuss the laws that were approved by the National Assembly when the Constitution was elaborated. The Constitution was drafted in the National Assembly by men and women who were elected by the men and women of Nicaragua, so the elected people could represent them and defend a program. We did not elect them to represent women or men. We elected them to represent a program, and this program includes self-determination, the country's defense, sovereignty, independence, the agrarian reform, and the rights of women.

Supposedly, a National Assembly representative, elected by the people who voted in favor of the Sandinist Front, must defend the Sandinist Front program. In so doing, he will defend the rights of women; if he fails to do so we would tell him: Comrade, you are failing; you are not defending the program of the Sandinist Front. We do the same with ministers, and we may tell one: This particular law is not being complied with. There is an obligation to gain his attention. We do this publicly and privately, any way. We can say: Comrade, we are failing, and we are adopting discriminatory measures in this particular place. We have to say specifically in what place. Workers also have the obligation to denounce an official who is failing.

The utilization of the tools of revolutionaray power was also discussed here. I have told you that sometimes we violate our own laws. It is important to be on the alert not to violate our own laws. We are capable of violating our own laws. I could violate it; a minister, a member of the Army, a policeman could violate it. The important matter is that the nature of our ministers, of our police, of our Army is completely different from that of past officials.

What Comrade Doris has said is right: There is no possible comparison between the former Somozist police and the Sandinist police; they are completely different. There are comrades in the Sandinist police who make errors and commit crimes. Yes, this is true. There are also comrades in the Army who make errors and commit crimes. There are quite a few comrade members of the Army, of the Interior Ministry, of the police who are in prison for having committed crimes. Now they are punished. I wanted to mention this. I was forgetting this point, which I believe is important, because in spite of our faults there is no possible comparison with the days of Somoza. It is true we have a heritage; we have not completely eliminated Somozism, and we have to struggle against it.

Responding to the question from Comrade Sofia Montenegro about how the problems of women are being discussed here, I believe that a theoretical analysis of what the process of participation of women has been in Nicaragua before and after the revolution must be based on a study on and an awareness of what our true situation is.

We have a specific and very particular situation. This is not in conflict with the existence of general principles, ideas, and theories that have been developed, some of which are against and others in agreement with what we are building here.

The most important factor, and this has been a lesson learned at this meeting, is that people who have the opportunity to dedicate themselves to a theoretical study of the participative role of women in the Nicaraguan revolutionary process—and when we speak of the revolutionary process, we speak from the historic point of view—must consider our true situation. What is the situation we see here? We speak of a situation where a woman will stand here and say: I have this and that problem in an enterprise; and a man will stand up and say: We have this particular problem in the neighborhood; and a women comrade will stand up and say: I have this problem with the police; and another will say: I have this particular problem with [words indistinct].

What do we have here? We cannot wait. This is what the situation shows. We cannot wait for comrades here to prepare a theoretical analysis about what they understand as women's participation. Women here have been telling us the elements of what their participation—real and practical participation—their lives, and their problems are.

Comrade Oresta's problem is to resolve her work problem rather than discussing the role of women. She talks like a worker. When she speaks she makes no differences about sex. She is simply demanding raw material for her enterprise, and there are men and women in her enterprise. By doing this, this comrade is making evident her direct and specific participation in the Nicaraguan revolutionary process. This is a completely new situation in Nicaragua's history.

Another comrade asks why she is not allowed to study a technical career. Why am I being prevented? It is true that I am told I cannot take classes because the school enrollment has been filled; we have to give preference to the discharged soldiers. That is true; discharged soldiers must have preference. All female comrades must understand that. By lodging that complaint the comrade is doing the right thing. She is doing the right thing, and she is presenting herself as she is; a woman integrated into the Nicaraguan revolutionary process. When she speaks and says: I want that, she is making demands, because the revolution has given her the opportunity to make demands. She is exercising her right.

Another woman said that she needed a resolution of the CDI problem. She is mentioning the specific company problem. Therefore, if we add up all those specific problems that the comrades are mentioning we would have to see who are mentioning certain problems. That situation is very important—I mean, who are and from where are the women mentioning diverse problems. Other comrades will be more involved in legal matters. That is why they bring up legal matters. Others are involved in material construction. For them, resolving problems regarding material production is more pressing now than legal matters. One thing does not negate the other. I would say that all these matters complement each other. They are an indication of what the participation of women in the Nicaraguan revolutionary process is. That is the situation we are experiencing.

To the interests of our revolutionary process, it is more important that a working comrade come and warn us about a certain problem that she is observing in her workplace than she make other sorts of proposals of a theoretircal nature. She could do the two things. However, if she does not think of doing the two things, the revolution has more interest in having her tell us about her problems at her workplace. She is telling us: I am participating in the country's productive process. The revolution has given me that right. I am here speaking and demanding rights that the revolution has given me. [applause] I would say the same thing regarding the comments made about the police and regarding all the other comments.

Last week we had a meeting in San Rafael del Sur. There, the problems affecting the people the most were not the lack of energy or water. The people complained and protested about that. However, those were not the problems affecting the people the most. We realized that during our talks with the comrades. Politically, the problems affecting the comrades the most dealt with the accusations levied against the police chief in San Rafael del Sur and with the attitude of the mother of a fallen comrade against the chief of MICOIN [Ministry of Domestic Trade] there. He did not give her some sand so she could conduct a ceremony to honor her fallen son. Not giving political solutions that are attuned with the principles of the revolution causes a political setback and political tension with all the people. The impact of this problem is greater than the lack of energy or water, because all those problems... [changes thought] than the lack of schools.

Therefore, I think that not everyone can elaborate theories on the process of women's participation. In other words, we cannot be... [changes thought] All comrades want to present theoretical views and begin subjective discussions. What I am seeing here is that women have come to comment on very specific matters; that is, on the specific matter of the country's defense, on the specific matter of compliance with the Guatemala accord, on the matter of amnesty, and on the specific matter of material production. There are many comrades involved in material production, involved in education, and so forth. The comments that have been made... [changes thought] and that is what we must value. From here we have to start drafting a theory. Based on this situation we must make an interpretation. We must interpret how women are going to participate. It cannot be; I cannot force a theoretical discussion. The situation of the Nicaraguan woman is this, is this [repeats himself]. I mean, the women who have been meeting here since this morning are the women leading AMNLAE. All the women would

not fit here. Only the AMNLAE leaders are here. If the AMNLAE leaders bring us all these problems they are reflecting a specific situation that is linked to the war and the aggression the country is experiencing.

The comrades are not off target when they make these kinds of comments. They would be off target if they had fallen into subjective matters and begun to theorize on the status of women. Quite the opposite, they have been very specific on the topics mentioned in economic and material aspects, flaws that they notice in determined institutions and in legal aspects. They have been very specific. Therefore, the comrades who can [words indistinct] should examine and observe this, because we cannot evade the issue. This is our situation, which is the result of the war; it is the result of an aggression. That is what I wanted to mention now, the war and the aggression.

We said earlier that we cannot stop thinking about the war and the aggression at any moment. I mentioned the boy who was wounded, and many have been killed or wounded during this and other clashes that occur every day. The mercenaries shot down one of our helicopters with one of the famous Redeye missiles that the U.S. Government has given them. The war continues every day, and we are working to implement the Guatemala agreement, to see if it is possible to attain peace. We do not indulge in wishful thinking that peace will be attained in Nicaragua and Central America on 5 November, when the 90-day deadline expires. We do not delude ourselves about this. Reagan is working in earnest and exerting himself so the peace agreement will not be implemented before the 90-day deadline expires so the war will continue; so the war will intensify; and so the U.S. invasion will take place in Central America—against Nicaragua. Reagan is working and will continue working to attain this goal. We must be clearly aware of this.

Consequently, we are working on two fronts. We are working on the military front, fighting every day against the mercenaries, without lowering our guard; and we are working on the domestic and international political front, implementing the Guatemala agreement. The signing of the Guatemala agreement, the signing of that agreement—the agreement implies a great responsibility for all the Central American presidents, because the signing of the agreement represents a lot of bloodshed. How much blood, how much blood [repeats himself] has been shed in Nicaragua! How much blood has been shed in Central America to attain the 7 August 1987 agreement! All the Central American presidents pledged to implement the agreement in a responsible way and try to attain peace.

We know that even though all the Central American presidents will exert themselves to the utmost and try to implement the agreements, the U.S. Government will be constantly trying to destroy and disrupt our negotiating process, to create an internal division among the political forces that are being urged to participate in the process that must lead... [corrects himself] that should lead to the achievement of peace. The United States is exerting itself to divide the Central American governments, so the outlook is critical. It is true that we have a powerful instrument that will help us work for the achievement of peace: our capacity to continue defeating the mercenary forces. If we lose this capacity, no one will fulfill the agreement. We must guarantee our capacity to continue defeating the mercenary forces and the capacity to implement the agreements in the domestic and international political sector. We must exert ourselves to guarantee this.

I emphasize that the situation is critical because the United States... [corrects himself] the U.S. Government is exerting itself to destroy Nicaragua. The U.S. President recently addressed the United Nations and launched his strongest attack on Nicaragua. He dedicated a great portion of his speech to this issue and used his most virulent words against Nicaragua. This is a truly visceral and irrational attitude, because the Guatemala agreement has been supported by the international community. Then President Reagan calmly stands in front of the UN and issues a very aggressive and adventuresome speech that shows disrespect for the international community. This enemy is capable of doing us a lot of harm; he is capable of invading us with his troops. This enemy's goal is that once the 90-day deadline has been reached Nicaraguan should be blamed for the agreement's failure, so the $280 million—or whatever amount—in aid is approved. Then the situation will become even worse than what it is now. The Nicaraguan women, and all the Nicaraguan people, must be clearly aware of this.

The hope for peace still prevails; we have never given up hope for peace—even during the worst circumstances, before the existence of the Guatemala agreement. We have always said that we advocate peace, that we want to achieve peace, that we will continue to struggle for peace, that we would continue to struggle in the military sector and in the international political sector—even if our country is invaded by U.S. troops. However, I emphasize that it is important for us not to delude ourselves and believe that peace will be achieved within 90 days. Quite the contrary, we must strengthen even more the defense of our homeland and the revolution by incorporating all patriotic Nicaraguans, the truly patriotic Nicaraguans, so we may really achieve peace. Perhaps we will not achieve this within 90 days, but we will eventually achieve peace; and, above all, we will change the U.S. policy's guidelines, because it represents a constant threat to the Central American people—particularly the Nicaraguan people.

We began this meeting at 0930, and we are closing it at almost 1700. We had planned to go to the pinata and dedicate the fair. We suppose it has not been dedicated yet. Some comrades are waiting for the dedication because not everybody can be here. Comrades, I want to say that we trust in the work that AMNLAE has been carrying out, in the efforts that the Nicaraguan women

have been making in all aspects—the military and the economic. We trust in the strength of our revolutionary process. We trust in the future. We trust in peace.

Viva AMNLAE; viva the women of Nicaragua; viva the women of Latin America and the Caribbean; viva the North American women; viva the women of the world.

Free fatherland [crowd shouts: "or death!"]

Bishops' Conference Issues Communique
PA270229 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 2249 GMT 26 Sep 87

[Communique issued by the Nicaraguan Bishops' Conference in Managua on 24 September]

[Text] Because of possible misinterpretations of the Nicaraugan Bishops' Conference [CEN] message issued on 17 September relating to the peace commissions, the CEN Permanent Secretariat has deemed it advisable and necessary to provide the public with the following explanations:

1. The church stance: The church in Nicaragua wants to be a symbol and to bear witness that unity among Nicaraguans is possible. Moreover, the church wants to be an efficient instrument to achieve unity—pastoral letter dated 6 April 1986.

We know that throughout history the church has encountered obstacles in fulfilling this crucial mission.

We note that our church is solely on the side of man, that is, on the side of all Nicaraguans. The church is the first to want peace and to seek ways to build a peace based on truth, justice, love, and liberty—message dated 17 September 1987.

2. The mass organizations commissions: In our message dated 17 September 1987, it was stated that presently in Nicaragua there are commissions called local peace commissions. Mass organizations handle these commissions independently from, if not in opposition to, the National Reconciliation Commission. These commissions do not seem to search for a total cease-fire agreement by the sides in conflict. Instead, it seems as if their sole purpose is to make isolated individuals surrender in order to disarm them.

3. Regional commissions of the National Reconciliation Commission: Moreover, during the meeting of the National Reconciliation Commission held on 22 September, the establishment of regional reconciliation commissions was agreed upon. In contrast to the aforementioned commissions, the regional commissions must have the following characteristics:

a) They will be subordinate to the National Reconciliation Commission;

b) Their composition will be similar to that of the National Reconciliation Commission. This means that they will be comprised of the region's bishop or his representative, regional government and Red Cross officials, and an opposition political party representative;

c) The commissions may be chaired by the region's bishop or his representative;

d) Their duty will be to help the National Reconciliation Commission in its mission to verify and corroborate compliance with agreements on the unconditional respect for all citizens' civil and political rights.

If necessary, special commissions will be created for specific zones in the region.

Issued in Managua, on 24 September, feast of Our Lady of Mercy, 1987

In witness thereof:

[signed] Msgr Bosco Vivas Robelo, Managua Auxiliary Bishop, Juigalpa Administrator, and CEN Secretary

Carrion Comments on Amnesty, Esquipulas
PA240415 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 2115 GMT 18 Sep 87

[Interview with Luis Carrion Cruz, commander of the revolution, member of the FSLN National Directorate, and first vice interior minister, by unidentified reporters "this afternoon"—recorded; broadcast in progress]

[Excerpts] [Carrion] ...at a time when the war and aggression continues we would thus contribute toward the war's expansion, we would only help aggravate the aggression. Of course, this cannot be, because it would be illogical. It would militate against the spirit and the purpose of amnesty. (?It would allow for) the release of a certain type of prisoner, primarily prisoners who have been involved in armed counterrevolutionary activities [words indistinct] decidedly toward peace.

[Reporter] Commander, we have a question dealing with precedents. Should criminals, those who committed genocide against the Nicaraguan people, be granted amnesty? We have the precedent of the Nuremberg tribunal.

[Carrion] That is correct. We will expand a little on this. The amnesty in force covers those who have committed crimes. They are protected by amnesty for the sole reason that they have laid down their arms. We have handled some of these cases. [passage indistinct] I would apply the Nuremberg comparison mainly to prisoners of the Somozist regime. The Somozist prisoners have nothing to do with the Esquipulas accords. The conflict in which they participated was created in this country as a result of the Somozist dictatorship's oppression against the people for nearly 45 years. This conflict was completely resolved on 19 July 1979. This conflict was settled by the victory of the people in arms over the Somozist dictatorship. To think of amnesty—that is to say, to forget, which is the meaning of the word—for the

Somozist regime is absolutely impossible and unacceptable. Amnesty in this case would be equivalent to negating the revolution. The revolution is the Nicaraguan people's response to the Somozist dictatorship's oppression. As I see it, Somozist prisoners belong to a completely different category, not related at all to the Esquipulas accords.

[Reporter] How about the Salvadoran counterrevolutionaries? Do they belong to another category? Do they belong to a different political category, to a different political reality?

[Carrion] As I said before, I believe the counterrevolutionary prisoners could be covered by the amnesty, provided the aggression ends, or at least considerably wanes. Only then will the release of those prisoners truly contribute to the consolidation of a solid peace process and only then will there be no danger of their release serving to increase the counterrevolutionaries' ranks. In other words, the counterrevolutionary armed option, the U.S. Government mercenary forces, must disappear so that the peace achieved with the release of the counterrevolutionary prisoners can be discernable. Therefore, this is an essential condition.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] category. Nevertheless, among the contras, especially among the top leaders, there are former Somozist guards. They committed crimes during the Somozist regime and they are simply fugitives who should be tried, not only for the crimes they have committed as counterrevolutionaries, but for the crimes they committed before. The list would be headed by contra military leader Enrique Bermudez, who was a Somozist colonel. In this case, how will you decide who will be covered by the amnesty?

[Carrion] On this issue the government has not yet adopted a definite position. I cannot offer you an official view on this issue. I can tell you that the amnesty in effect for several years makes no exceptions, not even for these people. Mondragon's case is the most outstanding. Mondragon did not only [words indistinct] task forces, he was a former member of the National Guard. That is the truth. The current amnesty does not exclude them. What will happen to them in the future? The government will have to resolve that problem.

[Reporter] Commander, at times the concern is raised that there may be a case of 20, 30, or 50 Mondragons and that the people may react against them.

[Carrion] You are asking me to guarantee something that is impossible. I frankly believe that in light of official and juridical actions it would be difficult for the people to automatically cast the amnesty issue aside. Many years have passed, but ignoring the past would be difficult for the Nicaraguan people to swallow. When Mondragon attacked it was difficult for many people to accept. As Sandinists, to the extent that we have committed ourselves, and the government has been committed to a certain amnesty process, we are also politically committed to trying to prevent spontaneous incidents that would affect this amnesty process. In other words, we strive to make the people understand and conscientiously to accept the reality of the amnesty and the importance it may have in hastening the end of the war. We trust that as the people understand this—and we are making every effort to ensure that they do so—this type of situation will be very rare.

[Reporter] Cardinal Obando and a political sector in this country believe that the release of the guards—the perpetrators of genocide—is an essential step toward what they describe as a national reconciliation. What is your opinion on this?

[Carrion] I believe that they have a right to hold this view. In response to a previous question I stated my point of view regarding this issue. I feel that the prisoners from the Somozist regime have nothing to do with the Esquipulas agreements.

[Reporter] In view of this, when these sectors speak of reconciliation who do you believe they are referring to?

[Carrion] I did not [words indistinct] the question.

[Reporter] The concept of reconciliation as such has been used by right-wing sectors. They have used and continue to use it as a political banner. Within this framework, the release of the guards, the opening of *La Prensa*, Radio Catolica, etc., etc., are elements of a reconciliation. In your judgment, as a member of the National Directorate, what are they pursuing? How do they perceive reconciliation?

[Carrion] It is unquestionable that a sector of the political opposition has aligned itself with the mercenary aggression directed and promoted by the U.S. Administration. They have embarked on a plan to destroy the Sandinist people's revolution by military means. Obviously the Esquipulas II agreements introduce a qualitatively new element in the political institutions. The agreements have created the possibility of ending the revolution; they have created the possibility of disarming the imperialists' mercenary option. To the extent that the armed, imperialist option disappears, the possibility will emerge that these opposition forces will understand that this path is totally destroyed and that they must participate in the country's political life, in accordance with the rules established by the Constitution, and in accordance with the civilian and political guarantees established in the Constitution. If mercenary action disappears we will be able to enforce these laws because the political restrictions that have existed are not based upon ideological options but on the principled position of the FSLN. Defense measures have been necessary in response to military aggression. I believe that reconciliation should be based upon the future resolution of political differences that are not going to disappear, within the political institutions that have been legally established in this country. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Commander, I have a question: Just who exactly is covered by the amnesty? If the amnesty were to be expanded, who would be included?

[Carrion] The amnesty currently includes all those who, having been active in the counterrevolution, decide to abandon the armed and subversive struggle and to rejoin the country's political life. That is the only requirement; there are no further requirements. Thus, anyone who abandons the armed counterrevolutionary struggle is covered by the amnesty. I believe I already answered the other question.

[Reporter] Some political parties are suddenly interested in the Somozists who are under arrest, as well as the counterrevolutionaries who are imprisoned. Certain parties, such as the Socialist Party, which have been traditional enemies of the Somozists, are suddenly supporting the immediate release of some of those prisoners. The Independent Liberal Party and other parties are also interested in this. Perhaps some interpret this as if they were looking for customers as they look toward the forthcoming municipal elections or perhaps gathering the support of some parties that do not have established ties.

This brings up the possibility of pardons. Regardless of their political interests these sectors may have, the revolutionary government traditionally grants pardons to some prisoners every year or so. These prisoners might be Somozist prisoners who are serving time and have exhibited good behavior, or some counterrevolutionary prisoners who have had minor participation or who have been forced to engage in counterrevolutionary activities. Even before the Esquipulas agreement was signed the revolutionary government had been studying some sort of pardon for these prisoners. [passage omitted]

Commander, the Guatemala agreements mention another issue very closely linked to amnesty: a cease-fire. In addition to the issue of amnesty, Nicaragua is also appointing peace commissions in the war zones. Together, these factors seem to indicate there is a possibility of a cease-fire, at least in the areas where there are military conflicts. To a certain extent, this reminds us of what happened in the Atlantic coastal area in 1985, where there was, in fact, a cesae-fire. However, there are many other proposals concerning a possible cease-fire in Nicaragua.

Furthermore, President Ortega today learned of a proposal sent by Costa Rican President Arias suggesting Cardinal Obando y Bravo as mediator to agree on a cease-fire directly with [words indistinct]; in other words, Cardinal Obando y Bravo could negotiate with the contras. I imagine the FSLN National Directorate has been studying the feasibility of this proposal. How do you personally view the possibility of agreeing to a cease-fire in Nicaragua? What is the most feasible way of reaching a cease-fire?

[Carrion] In the first place, this is an issue of principles. The revolutionary government does not want to hold any type of negotiations with the counterrevolutionary leadership. This means we must promote the proposal of the cease-fire without involving any dialogue with the counterrevolutionary leadership. We feel there should be other means of promoting the cease-fire [words indistinct]. In fact, in the Atlantic coastal area there was a process of dialogue with the chiefs of the forces that were inside the territory. After the cease-fire there was a gradual process of incorporating these forces into the normal political process of the country. All this was done without an agreement or negotiations with the chiefs of MISURA [Miskitos, Sumus, and Ramas], MISURA-SATA [Miskito, Sumu, Rama Sandinst Unity], or the various counterrevolutionary organizations living in the Atlantic coastal area.

Therefore, we feel it is feasible to establish some sort of contact with the chiefs of groups, detachments, and task forces who are inside the country and are willing to participate in a cease-fire. How could we achieve these contacts? Well, we think a very important way could be through the peace commissions that are composed of people with various backgrounds. The commissions include priests, protestant pastors, opposition political party members, oustanding producers, former rebels who have left the movement, former collaborators, and former contra collaborators.

In other words, these commissions make it relatively easy for them to contact (?those groups) and to become a channel for establishing—to the extent possible—a cease-fire with the groups that so desire. Regardless of what the top contra echelons say or believe, this is a feasible method that we have already tried and that we could promote. This does not exclude the possibility of implementing other ideas and methods as we go along that could promote the process, as long as it does not include any [words indistinct] or negotiation with the contras. In other words, any other method will be the (?result) of a unilateral decision and [words indistinct] of the revolutionary government. The determination to not hold a dialogue with the contras is an irreversible decision. It is a matter of principle for the Sandinist people's revolution and the FSLN. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Commander Luis Carrion, do you know how many rebels have abandoned their struggle in Nicaragua since President Ortega signed the first amnesty decree, and how many since the signing of the Esquipulas agreements?

[Carrion] Up until 31 July 1987 we had recorded 3,494 rebels who left the contra forces since the amnesty decree was issued. In addition, there were also 6,120 who were repatriated. In other words, some of those who were repatriated were former contras, who instead of abandoning the contra groups inside Nicaragua preferred to do so while in Honduras or Costa Rica. In total, we know of 9,614 people who have laid down their weapons or who have been repatriated since the implementation of the amnesty law. Since the signing of the Esquipulas agreements—which is really a short period—we have recorded 102 former rebels and 233 repatriates. The tendency is that the number of former rebels and repatriates will increase at a faster rate. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Some foreign journalists contend that the revolution already has begun talks with the contras. Just yesterday one of them asked me if that were true, based on a news conference you had with foreign journalists here in Managua a couple of days ago. You have just said that as a matter of principle there will be no dialogue with the contras. You also explained the role of the peace commissions or amnesty commissions, or whatever the name may be, in the various locations. Does this mean that those contacts do not actually represent a dialogue between the government and contra groups or detachments? Is there a dialogue between our authorities and those detachments? Are there any specific actions at this moment aimed at approaching some of those groups, holding talks with them, and creating the possibilities for a rapport that could result in a cease-fire in specific areas, regions, or places?

[Carrion] First, we must stress that at no time have we mentioned the possibility of holding a dialogue with the contras. I will explain. When we talk about a dialogue with the contras we are not talking about a detachment of 10 people, many of whom are there for reasons that differ from those of the contra leaders. Some of them have been deceived; others have been forced; and others are resentful for various reasons. We know of people who have committed crimes and have joined the rebel forces to evade justice. Hence, in my opinion, the contras are the mediators used by the U.S. Government in their attempts to destroy the revolution and restore the type of government that existed here under Somozism, so Nicaragua will again be a puppet of U.S. imperialism. However, many of the men who are currently fighting with the contras have nothing to do with those plans of the contra leadership and Yankee imperialism. Those who really favor those plans probably will not accept an amnesty, a cease-fire, or any point in the Esquipulas agreements.

When we say that we will not hold a dialogue and will not negotiate with the contras, we mean that we do not have to reach an agreement with anyone regarding political aspects. Power here was achieved through the people's revolutionary victory and ratified in legitimate, legal elections. The revolution has created its institutions and does not have to discuss matters related to that power with anyone. Therefore, there is no dialogue with the contras here, and there cannot be any. That is why we say we are ready to talk directly with those commanders who, independently of the position assumed by the contra leaders, are willing to comply with the Esquipulas agreements, which expressly rule out, dismiss, or eliminate the obligation of holding a dialogue with the contras. Therefore, those who wish to talk to us in the field are those who accept that the dialogue is not a condition to advance in the compliance of the Esquipulas agreements. [passage omitted].

[Reporter] Yesterday, all the foreign ministers spoke about the national reconciliation commissions. President Oscar Arias is currently being criticized for having formed this commission. We heard the Honduran foreign minister say yesterday that Honduras does not have to form any type of national reconciliation commission because it does not have any internal conflicts, and thus does not need to form a reconciliation commission. When we asked him about the presence of the counterrevolutionaries, he sounded like a broken record saying: we are ready to fulfill everything established in Esquipulas. Apparently, there are neither contras in Honduras nor are Honduran producers always complaining about their presence and making demands to the U.S. Administration; it seems there are no contras in Honduras.

[Carrion] [laughs] Regarding the creation of the national reconciliation commission, I can say that the Esquipulas II agreement clearly obligates all Central American governments, without exception, to form national reconciliation commissions. The fact that Costa Rica is now accepting this as the only valid interpretation leaves Honduras without any legitimate argument to refuse to form its own national reconciliation commission. The agreement does not say that it must be created only in countries where there have been conflicts. It states that each country must form a commission. I think that Costa Rica's decision to create one may be regarded as a political contribution to the efforts to convince Honduras to create one in the future.

Regardless of what Honduran Foreign Minister Lopez Contreras said, the truth is that we all know that the contras are in Honduras, that they have their supply bases there, that their communications and intelligence centers are there, that their radio stations are there, in short, that their entire structure is there. What the foreign minister says in this regard is not so important. What really will matter is whether what he is saying about complying with all the agreements is true. If Honduras really complies with all the commitments established in the Esquipulas agreement, it does not really matter so much if they play dumb about whether or not the contras are in Honduras.

[Reporter] We ask the question because today various interpretations were presented. For example, the Costa Rican foreign minister—and I think another foreign minister shared his view—today said that simultaneity is a process, that it cannot be the same for all, and that it is possible that some steps will take some countries longer to put into effect. For example, Honduras could say tomorrow that it might take it 2 years to get the contras out of Honduras—once it admits their presence. Meanwhile, it is demanded of us that we lift the state of emergency. In that aspect, some, such as [words indistinct] look for adjustments in the concept of simultaneity, saying that it is a process that not all will fulfill simultaneously.

[Carrion] If an action cannot be fulfilled simultaneously at a specific moment it must be fulfilled through a gradual process. We accept that it can be complied with as an on-going process over a period of time. Now then, what would the period of time be? That period of time

cannot be any period of time. It must be a reasonable period. I think 30 to 60 days is more than enough time for all to comply with their commitments. Obviously, if someone says they need 2 years to comply, they are making fun of us. Anyway, the presidents gave themselves 150 days—in other words, 60 days after the 90 days—to evaluate the fulfillment of the agreements. We must understand that total fulfillment of the agreements cannot go beyond the 150th day. Regarding the actions that Nicaragua must undertake to fulfill its commitments, there must be discussion about the moment when those actions must take place during such a process so that those actions will be truly simultaneous with the actions of the other countries. It is obvious that there is no simultaneity if, for example, on the 90th day Nicaragua releases all prisoners and Honduras takes 6 months to dismantle the counterrevolutionary camps in its territory. That is not simultaneity. The concept of simultaneity must be interpreted in a just and fair way for all parties involved.

[Reporter] This is a question that I think is of interest to all citizens. When the amnesty is expanded, would traitors like Eden Pastora fall under such a process of expanding the amnesty?

[Carrion] I have explained that the amnesty currently in effect does not make any exceptions. In other words, Pastora is already covered by the current amnesty if he so requests it. In other words, it does not need to be expanded. Do I explain myself?

[Reporter] Pastora or any other?

[Carrion] Pastora or any other. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] One last question: Some political leaders have said that on 8 November they will take to the streets because the Esquipulas agreement establishes 7 November as the deadline for the fulfullment of what the presidents signed. They say that 8 November [words indistinct] change in the revolution, or the doors will be open for the revolution to cease existence, or something like that. Do you think that Esquipulas means a change in direction, a turn to the left, to the right, a change backwards, up or down? Viewing Esquipulas in relation to what the revolution has sought, does (?it mean a change) in the direction of the revolution?

[Carrion] Esquipulas does not mean a change in any direction. It simply means the opportunity for the revolution to continue advancing on the path we have always sought, in other words, a peaceful political path where democratic freedoms are in effect, where a mixed economy and all that we established in our Constitution functions. In this sense we believe that the Esquipulas agreements will function if peace is achieved and if all the commitments they establish are placed into effect. These are not new commitments for the revolution. Everything the Esquipulas agreements establish in the political field is already established with greater detail in a broader sense in the Nicaraguan Constitution. We will enter a new situation that will enable us to continue promoting the revolution we desire, but in a new framework. In other words, the agreements have nothing to do with the course of the revolution; they do not modify it. A Sandinist will not stop being a revolutionary; he will never stop being a revolutionary. We are going to resolve the contradictions with other forces that exist in the society through a civilized and political path, rather than through the armed aggression, which is what the U.S. Administration has wanted to impose on us. This is the essential thing that we have wanted to resolve through the Esquipulas agreements. [passage omitted]

Tirado Addresses Managers Congress

PA262034 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Sep 87

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Victor Tirado Lopez has said the war should not be used as an argument to explain deficiencies. The Sandinist leader, who is also a member of the FSLN National Directorate, added that revolutionaries should not use such an argument because it makes the people distrust the government and feel it is unreliable.

Tirado Lopez spoke at the opening of the third managers' congress organized by CONAPRO [National Confederation of Professional Associations]. He discussed sensitive aspects of management, the relationship between technicians and workers, and the nation's economic model. He added that state managers and enterprises should discover their mistakes and be able to appear natural, modest, and honest in the workers' eyes so the latter can regard these qualities as vital for revolutionary managers.

Commander Tirado said criticism and self-criticism should guide the managers' actions. Addressing the managers, he said they should admit their mistakes and correct them through revolutionary criticism and self-criticism. It is necessary to pave the way for discussion of problems with workers so institutions will not be turned into managerial sects. He also said that the people should understand the difficult moment the country is passing through, stick firmly to the revolution's principles, and prepare to develop economic survival into more advanced stages.

Defining the relationship between managers and workers, Tirado said this relation should be based on strategic accords because, under normal conditions, it is the enterprises' leaders who make decisions. He also said decisionmaking is not arbitrary but based on rational and scientific thinking.

Later, Tirado Lopez said managers should imitate workers, who have become a labor force that started economic brigades, the innovators movement, and the no-strike principle, among other labor class achievements. He further said it is necessary to fuse new thoughts with the strategy of the revolution, the production strategy. In other words, it is necessary to make joint economic, moral, and ideological efforts.

Tinoco on U.S. Attempts to Impede UN Aid

PA271808 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 25 Sep 87

[Text] Nicaraguan Vice Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco has criticized U.S. Government attempts to impede the United Nations from participating in the control and verification of the Guatemalan peace agreements. Tinoco stated to the press that the Reagan administration intends to inhibit the process of placing into effect the document signed by the five Central American presidents on 7 August, also known as Esquipulas II. He added that the U.S. intentions to frustrate the fulfillment of the peace agreements in the region were clearly demonstrated during the 1st week of the UN General Assembly debates. The U.S. Government is bent on continuing the war against Nicaragua despite the Central American countries' commitment to establish a firm peace in area, he said.

Wheelock Announces Sugar Harvest Delay

PA252016 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Jaime Wheelock Roman, minister of agricultural development and agrarian reform, has announced the sugar harvest at the state-owned sugar mills will be delayed this year. The leader said this delay is due to problems in the supply of parts and supplies for the sugar mills. Wheelock described the situation as worrisome in comparison to last year's harvest:

[Begin recording] So far, we have only received 30 percent of the parts we should have received. In addition to that, many of the parts ordered were approved (?late), and we are going to have to delay the sugar harvest at the state sugar mills a little. This does not mean efforts are not being made, but we are working in a (?large region). However, the interesting thing is that despite the aggression, the crisis, and a great shortage of foreign exchange, the country's sugar industry remains active. We have not closed any sugar mills, as opposed to what happened in Panama, the Dominican Republic, and other countries. [end recording]

Commander Wheelock, who visited the July Victory Sugar Mill, today said the traditional sugar industry is experiencing a difficult situation due to a drop in international prices and other factors:

[Begin recording] The overall situation of the sugar mills—from the viewpoint of the rural sector, the [words indistinct] transportation, and the industry—is worrisome.

For example, last year the sugar mills received $1 million [words indistinct], and these sugar mills operated because there is an agreement between Cuba and Nicaragua for the supply of parts and supplies for approximately $3 million. [end recording]

Regarding the July Victory Sugar Mill, Minister Wheelock said it has the largest production of sugar per manzana. He added that it is expected to produce more than 600,000 quintals of sugar this year.

PSC Demands Total Political Amnesty

PA282240 Paris AFP in Spanish 0113 GMT 28 Sep 87

[Text] Managua 27 Sep (AFP)—The Nicaraguan Social Christian Party (PSC) today demanded the government end the state of emergency in force since 1982, a total political amnesty, and negotiations with the contras that will lead to ending the war.

Commemorating its 30th anniversary with a massive ceremony, the PSC also asked that the compulsory military service law be abolished.

Luis Herrera Campins, former Venezuelan president and general secretary of the Christian Democratic Organization of America (ODCA), who was special guest at this encounter, criticized the FSLN in his speech and accused it of deviating toward "Marxist-totalitarian forms of government."

Herrera also criticized the U.S. economic blockade of Nicaragua and pointed out that the people are the ones who have to pay for "internal and external pressures."

The Social Christian activities were held at a theater in downtown Managua and included a march to the cemetery to render homage to its founders and heroes; no incidents occurred.

PDC President Erick Ramirez compared the Sandinist regime to the Somozist dictatorship, and he accused it of attempting "to establish a totalitarian political project that the Nicaraguan people reject with all their might."

Ramirez also asked for amnesty "for all political prisoners," which would cover "without any discrimination all those who are now engaged in armed struggle and the thousand of exiles."

The PDC president promised to fight for "a truly free fatherland" and a political system that provides "peace, tranquillity, security, and stability."

As the people present at the ceremony chanted: "What do the people want? That the [Sandinist] Front depart," Ramirez stated "it is time to banish from our country those empty slogans that peddle a supposed revolutionary paradise."

At the same time, Luis Herrera Campins expressed his solidarity with the Nicaraguan Social Christians by telling them: "You are not alone in this struggle for democracy, freedom, justice, a humane economy, effective human rights, organized popular participation, and a sincere and stable peace."

The former Venezuelan president reminded "the Sandinist commanders of their commitment to a pluralist democracy."

He said that the Nicaraguan revolution "could have defined a path" for the transformation of Latin America, but "its deviation toward Marxist-totalitarian methods of governing has caused a lack of confidence as well as suspicion, distrust, and estrangement."

Panama

Cabinet Communique Views U.S. Actions

PA271350 Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish 27 Sep 87 pp 1, 8-a

[Communique issued by the Cabinet Council in Panama City on 24 September]

[Text] The Cabinet Council has been informed about the very grave actions against Panama's sovereignty and dignity carried out by representatives of the U.S. Government. These actions must be protested and reported to the world.

More than 100 uniformed members of the U.S. Armed Forces stationed in the Panama Canal sectors exclusively for the defense of the waterway arrived aboard two buses and were posted at the U.S. Embassy in Panama City, violating the procedures established in the Panama Canal Treaty and its related agreements for the movement and transport of troops. At the same time, a Blackhawk UH-60 helicopter with registration number M-23985 from Howard Air Force Base, without using the established corridors and violating Panamanian airspace, landed 7 miles from the northern runway of the Rio Hato airport, refusing to respond to the control tower's questions on its identification and purpose of the trip. This helicopter fled when it noticed the approach of ground patrols.

These actions constitute violations of national territory with censurable damage to the territorial sovereignty of the Panamanian state and an intolerable interference in the country's internal affairs, to the detriment of the basic norms of international conduct.

When these actions were taking place the U.S. Ambassador in Panama and his minister counselor [title as published] were holding a luncheon meeting in the latter's residence with numerous political figures who are in opposition to the Panamanian Government, before which the two diplomats are accredited. This was done without informing the Foreign Ministry either before or after the meeting.

These attitudes of provoking and taxing the patience of the Panamanian Government and people have been repeated during the last few months by individuals whose conduct the U.S. Government should be responsible for in accordance with what is expressly stipulated in the Panama Canal Treaty, its related agreements, and the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations—international instruments that the two countries are signatories with ineludible reciprocal obligations.

The Republic of Panama is the target of a campaign to destabilize its public institutions. This campaign is inspired, encouraged, and provoked by U.S. citizens. These citizens have provided permanent support to bad Panamanians who want to overthrow the Panamanian Government and seize power by force, producing the disruption of the constitutional democratic process that establishes the holding of general popular elections in 1989 to elect by direct vote the president and the vice presidents, the members of the legislative branch, the mayors, the corregimiento representatives, and councilmen.

In a way that does not seem spontaneous, an illegal organization called the "Civic Crusade" was created in this city. Its avowed objective is the overthrow of the government, the promotion of civil disobedience and subversion, and the replacement or change of the established authorities.

Employees of the Panama Canal Commission have participated in the acts of civil disobedience and disruption of public order organized by the "Civic Crusade." This is an open violation of the obligation not to interfere in political activities in the Republic of Panama or in our internal affairs and the obligation to respect our laws, as established by Article 5 of the Panama Canal Treaty.

The minister counselor of the U.S. Embassy in Panama has not worried about demonstrating his links with the groups that promote sedition in Panama, and his opinions have been made known by national and foreign communications media.

The commercial counselor [title as published] of the U.S. Embassy in Panama was recently discovered enthusiastically participating in an antigovernment political demonstration in one of the "poorest and most populated districts of the metropolitan area. [no closing quotation mark as published] The political demonstration degenerated into acts of violence with a lamentable toll of bloodshed. The participation of the U.S. official was played down, and the State Department protested the arrest of the political activist protected by diplomatic immunity.

The daughter of the U.S. Ambassador in Panama has participated in many public political acts organized against the Panamanian Government and has expressed her clear sympathy for the antigovernment organizations. Even though she does not hold any diplomatic position, when she is in Panama she stays at the residence of the U.S. Government Embassy.

The chief of the U.S. diplomatic mission in Panama has held meetings with individuals linked to the groups involved in the subversion of public order, has personally gone to the sites of political protests against the Panamanian Government, and has made statements on the Panamanian situation, thus showing a conduct of flagrant intervention in Panama's internal affairs, disregarding diplomatic behavior and customs, and violating the provisions of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the OAS Charter.

This is an opportune moment to report to the world that the Republic of Panama is not experiencing isolated incidents. Instead, it is the victim of a campaign of political destabilization that has been professionally orchestrated with the

most sophisticated methods, the only objective of which is to achieve the overthrow of the legitimate government and replace it with a puppet government that will prevent the fulfillment of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties and cut short Panama's possibilities of consolidating its territory and recover all its sovereign rights in accordance with what has been agreed upon.

Victims of deceit or ignorance, some prominent U.S. political figures, including senators and congressmen, have helped Panamanian seditious elements or have accepted as absolute truths the slanderous charges that have emerged from the fiercest discrediting campaign that the civilized world has ever known.

The traditional friendship between the peoples and governments of Panama and the United States has been tarnished by the sinister ambitions of those who want to obtain power at any price and those who want to retain the Panama Canal by force, indefinitely prolonging the U.S. military presence in our homeland.

Coinciding with these actions, the process for returning to the Panamanian Government the houses occupied by U.S. soldiers—which entails a reduction in the number of such personnel—has been accompanied by the practice of renting houses and apartments in Panama City without express authorization from the Panamanian authorities, something that results in a military presence imposed in violation of the Canal Treaties and international law.

This practice has caused annoying distortions in the living conditions of the most expensive urban neighborhoods in Panama City, in which U.S. soldiers now live. These soldiers possess weapons, come from different U.S. social and cultural sectors, and have customs and health conditions that are not always in line with Panamanian living standards. We can correctly think that Panama has been invaded without a rifle shot and without the knowledge of the rest of the world's nations. All of this imposes on Panama an overwhelming foreign military presence that has reestablished the causes of the conflict that the Torrijos-Carter Treaties sought to eliminate.

In the military areas turned over by Panama to the United States for the exclusive purpose of the defending the canal, elections for mayors or "mayor" [preceding word in English] have been or are being held with electoral publicity campaigns through the television station operated by the U.S. Army Southern Command in an attempt to reinstall a government within our government.

Directly or through intermediaries, the U.S. Embassy rents a large number of apartments or residences in Panama City, something that also constitutes an overwhelming and unnecessary diplomatic presence.

Because of the aforementioned actions, which form part of a list of aggressions against Panama and which constitute evident violations of the UN and OAS Charters and other international agreements and treaties, we believe the time has come to warn that the Panamanian Government will not tolerate any more actions of intervention and disrespect, that it is ready to firmly maintain its national dignity at any cost, and that it will undertake the defense of the national sovereignty as demanded by circumstances.

Therefore, the appropriate authorities are instructed to prevent a repetition of actions harmful to our national dignity in our territory.

They are also instructed to make known this communique to all the international organizations, institutions, and associations to which Panama belongs so they will be aware of the Panamanian people's unyielding desire to continue to honestly struggle for their sovereignty.

Issued in Panama City on 24 September 1987.

Opposition Leaders Leave for Venezuela

PA290017 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Sep 87

[Text] Businessmen Aurelio Barria, Eduardo Vallarino, Gilbert Mallol, and Jose Pretto left at 1710 today from Omar Torrijos International Airport for Venezuela. They left on a Venezuelan Airlines, AVENSA, flight. A warrant for their arrest has been issued.

The business leaders sought refuge at the apostolic nunciature on 5 August as a result of the arrest warrant issued following their participation in public events related to the current political crisis.

The apostolic nunciature and other embassies provided security for these private business figures at the airport while friends and relatives bade them farewell.

It has been reported that Barria, Vallarino, Mallol, and Pretto will try while in Venezuela—the country that has granted them asylum—to go to the United States.

[Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish at 0002 GMT on 29 Sep 87 reports that "according to an opposition spokesman, the Panamanian Government decided to expel four opposition leaders from the country after evicting them from the Vatican's diplomatic mission here, where they were hiding." It further adds that "the government forced the four men to leave the diplomatic mission by sending a high-level Foreign Ministry official there to pressure the Vatican's representative."]

CONATO Gives Delvalle 8 Days To End Crisis

PA241424 Panama City STAR AND HERALD in English 24 Sep 87 pp A-1, A-4

[Unattributed Article]

[Text] Several hundred members of Panama's private industry labor unions marched to the Presidential Palace Wednesday to give the government an ultimatum for solving the nation's four-month-old crisis, labor leaders said.

"We'll give (President Eric Arturo Delvalle) eight days to respond to our demands," said Jose Antonio Parra, coordinator of the march and leader of the National Council of Organized Workers (CONATO) which is the largest private industry labor union in Panama.

Labor leaders want Delvalle to begin a dialogue to come up with a national development plan and do away with bureaucratic corruption.

CONATO also proposes to review the nation's labor laws, raise salaries with inflation, reduce and freeze the regulated price of basic foods and public utilities and approve a civil service system.

Marchers belonging to the construction union SUNTRACS, other unions and members of Panama's Communist Party (Partido Popular) marched from Parque Porras to the Palace located in the capital's French quarter.

Marchers carried signs calling for higher salaries and reviews of the nation's labor laws, among other demands and shouted slogans such as "they'll see what happens when the workers make power" and "be alert of what is coming, the anti-imperialism in Latin America."

The march got underway less than 24 hours after Delvalle returned from the U.S. where he underwent medical tests and met with Assistant Secretary for Inter-American Affairs Elliott Abrams.

Leaders of the 12 member organizations of the leftist-independenty CONATO were to give Delvalle a written proposal and an ultimatum as they reached the Presidential Palace.

Parra said the union will also demand the removal of the labor minister who is seen as non-sympathetic to their demands.

"We want total changes," said Parra before the march which was not restricted by the police.

If no radical changes are made by CONATO's deadline, Parra said the union will call an indefinite general strike.

Crusade Said Promising Bases to U.S.

PA242000 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 23 Sep 87 p 1

[Unattributed article: "Commitment by the Crusade Members: Give Four Military Bases to the United States"]

[Text] The group of unpatriotic men who lead the destabilization of the constitutional government headed by Eric Delvalle have made a pact with State Department officials for leasing four military bases to the United States after the year 2000 if they are able to install a provisional government junta.

A reliable Civic Crusade source assured this newspaper that the seditious individuals also promised to involve Panama in the Central American conflict or in any other low-intensity conflict in Latin America.

In many meetings with [Civic Crusade leader] Aurelio Barria and his group, emissaries of Poindexter, North, and Abrams discussed and agreed on Panama's withdrawal from Contadora and other commitments that they listed and called the "State Department's menu." The "menu" includes the seditious individuals' promise that "their" junta will not seek financing outside the United States for the possible construction of a sea level canal.

The exclusion of the Defense Forces from national life and the exclusion of the commander in chief from the peace processes involving the area's armed groups were some of the other commitments made by the Crusade leaders, who at every moment would have logistical support from U.S. Embassy officials.

The same source also said the Crusade would not convene the Latin American economic cartel that was announced some time ago by the most prominent Panamanian political leaders.

Panama has been experiencing subversive agitation for almost 4 months. Its declared objective is the replacement of the Delvalle government by a Washington-supported provisional junta and the disbanding of the Defense Forces, which have sworn that the treaties signed by General Torrijos and President Carter in 1977 will be complied with to the letter.

According to the source, two of the bases the Crusade members plan to lease are on the Pacific and two are on the Atlantic side of the Panama Canal.

On the Pacific side, the United States would maintain the Rodman Naval Base, which is suitable for submarines, and it would install a new base whenever it decides to. On the Atlantic, the seditious individuals have promised Fort Sherman, which is used to train the contra insurgency, and Galeta Island, a base equipped with radars and sophisticated equipment for monitoring international communications.

Argentina

Further on Events at 3d Infantry Regiment

PY280341 Buenos Airs DYN in Spanish 0324 GMT 28 Sep 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Sep (DYN)—The situation at the 3d Infantry Regiment is calm, and has only been altered by the fact that the sentries have now painted their faces black.

With their faces painted black and heavily armed with grenades and automatic weapons, the sentries answered reporters' questions on the condition that no photographs be taken.

Initially, a captain and two lieutenants acted as spokesmen. The captain apparently was in charge of the guard post.

Several trucks and jeeps entered the premises of the regiment tonight, including a movable mechanic shop called "poliequipment" ["poliequipo"] and other logistics vehicles.

Army Command Studies Incident

PY280315 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0258 GMT 28 Sep 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Sep (DYN)—The Army High Command tonight is evaluating the situation of the 3d Infantry Regiment, based in Tablada, whose officers have decided to "voluntarily confine themselves to barracks" to reject the relief of Lieutenant Colonel Dario Fernandez Maguer, the regiment's commander.

Military sources have stated that Army Chief of Staff General Jose Caridi has made contact with Colonel Vivas (correct, Colonel Vivas and not General Vilas as reported), [source supplied correction] the commander of the 10th Infantry Brigade, to ask him (?for) updated (?information).

All generals and colonels in a position to be promoted are in Buenos Aires tonight, because a meeting has been scheduled for tomorrow.

Meanwhile, it has been learned that President Raul Alfonsin is being fully informed of what is going on.

Situation Said Normal

PY281129 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1015 GMT 28 Sep 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Sep (NA)—A completely normal situation can be observed this morning at the 3d Infantry Regiment, based in Tablada, in Greater Buenos Aires, after the incidents last night and at dawn today, which demanded the direct intervention of Army Chief of Staff General Jose Dante Caridi to control some unrest caused by the dismissal of the regiment's commander, Lieutenant Colonel Dario Fernandez Maguer.

Early this morning only a minimum number of guards was observed at the regiment, and some soldiers were seen returning from their day off.

Army Communique Denies Unrest

PY281223 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0934 GMT 28 Sep 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Sep (TELAM)—Shortly after 0600 this morning, the Army High Command issued the following communique signed by Colonel Pedro A. Marti Garro, chief of the Army Command Press Department:

In view of developments that are public knowledge regarding alleged irregularities at the 3d Infantry Regiment headquartered in Tablada, the Army High Command, in order to reassure the citizenry, hereby informs the people that:

1. The 3d Infantry Regiment is carrying out tasks in compliance with its mission and orders received from its brigade commander. The unit, during the last few days of last week, was engaged in preparing an inspection of arsenals, which will begin at 0800 on 28 September.

2. The presence of military personnel, including the commander and deputy commander, and the deployment of vehicles during the weekend, was involved solely with the aforementioned task.

3. Although he was being kept informed about the situation at the regiment by the commander of the 10th Infantry Brigade, the Army chief of staff, himself, went to the 3d Regiment late last night, and was able to observe that activities were absolutely normal.

4. The fact that the unit had learned that its commander was being replaced at the end of the year, during the annual reassignments, did not represent an obstacle to the regiment's carrying out its mission with its traditional efficiency.

5. In response to inquiries by the media, the statement by an alleged officer of the unit is being analyzed within the context of the investigations

Officer Denies Self-Confinement

PY281241 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1210 GMT 28 Sep 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Sep (NA)—An alleged lieutenant of the 3d Infantry Regiment based in Tablada, by the name of Cabrera, told journalists shortly before 0900 that officers and noncommissioned officers of that unit are going to make "a formal request" to the Army High Command to review the replacement of their regiment commander, Lieutenant Colonel Dario Fernandez Maguer.

The officer explained that "we are not self-confined" and admitted that if the situation is not reviewed "we are going to adopt other measures of pressure" that "have nothing to do with the Easter weekend crisis", and noted that they respect the democratic system.

Army Generals Meet

PY281248 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1219 GMT 28 Sep 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Sep (TELAM)—At the Army Joint Command Office on the 8th floor of the Libertador Building, a meeting of active-duty generals got under way at 0830. This meeting, chaired by Army Commander General Jose Dante Caridi, is also being attended by colonels who hold command posts.

At the meeting, which will last until tomorrow, the Army chiefs will report on the situations in their command jurisdictions and on plans that are being carried out. According to unofficial sources, it is likely that the incidents that took place early this morning at the 3d Infantry Regiment headquartered in Tablada will also be discussed.

Alfonsin, Defense Secretary Meet

PY281359 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1305 GMT 28 Sep 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Sep (NA)—Defense Secretary Raul Alconada Sempe has been meeting with President Raul Alfonsin since shortly before 1000, presumably to analyze the situation created by the self-confinement, and other issues.

Alconada did not make a statement to the media as he arrived at the presidential residence.

Wrap-up on Incident

PY281506 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Sep 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Sep (NA)—Army Chief of Staff General Jose Dante Caridi's direct involvement was required early this morning to defuse [desactivar] an attempted self-confinement by the 3d Armored Infantry Regiment in La Tablada, southwest of greater Buenos Aires. The attempted self-confinement followed an announcement that Lieutenant Colonel Dario Fernandez Maguer, the 3d Armored Infantry Regiment commander, would be relieved of his duties.

Caridi entered the military unit at 0120 and left at 0230 after the news media were informed of a virtual self-confinement as a result of Fernandez Maguer's removal.

Caridi told reporters that the situation at the regiment was "absolutely normal," and that the "personnel were conducting normal activities, ordered by the 10th Brigade command," which is in command of the 3d Armored Infantry Regiment.

Concerning Lt Col Fernandez Maguer's situation, Caridi, who arrived and left the military unit in a Ford Falcon automobile, said: "According to Army staff orders, the lieutenant colonel's transfer is scheduled for late 1987 as part of the Army's regular transfer program."

Nevertheless, 3d Armored Infantry Regiment sources last night admitted the existence of a state of "disgruntlement and uneasiness" among the regiment's officers and noncommissioned officers as a result of Fernandez Maguer's removal.

The sources did not give their names but identified themselves as Lieutenant "Dignidad" and Captain "Luciernaga" [firefly].

Lieutenant "Dignidad" and Captain "Luciernaga" met the journalists who went to the barracks following the reports on an alleged self-confinement by the regiment's officers and noncommissioned officers.

The sources justified the attitude adopted by the regiment's officers and noncommissioned officers, claiming that the Army leadership did not comply with an agreement reached after the Holy Week crisis. According to the agreement, no sanctions would be imposed on those who refused to repress the rebels at the Infantry School.

The 3d Armored Infantry Regiment is located on Crovara Avenue and the road skirting Tablada, Matanza District, some 30 blocks from General Paz Avenue, which forms a boundary of the federal capital.

According to spokesmen, Fernandez Maguer had refused to repress the rebels during the Holy Week uprising, which was a cause for his removal.

Rumors of "unrest" at the regiment headquartered in Tablada began to circulate early yesterday afternoon, in the wake of insistent rumors heard last Friday that the "unrest" was caused by the replacement of the chiefs of several units. Other rumors said the climate of unrest was created by low salaries, especially among noncommissioned officers.

It was also learned that rumors of a possible self-confinement circulated in the Tablada Regiment, and that the unit's deputy chief, Major Heinrich, had met with the officer staff last Saturday to discuss this measure.

A long list of the names of the new chiefs of several regiments, which was published by the daily *La Nueva Provincia* of Bahia Blanca, allegedly caused unrest among the officers.

Reportedly, the showing of a video cassette on the Holy Week crisis was the reason for the untimely replacement and punishment of several officers.

The following are the main incidents that occurred early this morning:

At 0100, the Army General Staff, presided over by Caridi, met at the Libertador Building to discuss the situation created by the self-confinement of the La Tablada Regiment.

At the same time, Defense Secretary Raul Alconada Sempe began a watch at his office in the Defense Ministry. Consulted by *Noticias Argentinas*, he said the

Ministry would release a communique on the situation early in the morning, and he was going to meet with President Alfonsin.

Alconada Sempe is acting defense minister during Horacio Jaunarena's official visit to Spain.

At 0120, Gen Caridi arrived at the La Tablada Regiment in a Ford Falcon car. There, he met with the regiment's highest-ranking officers, including Lt Col Fernandez Maguer.

At 0230, Caridi left the regiment and said: "The situation is entirely normal," and "the members of the regiment are conducting their normal activities under the command of the 10th Infantry Brigade," under Colonel Francisco Vivas.

Caridi attributed to "people outside the unit" the reports on the regiment's self-confinement. He also said that the "presence of those gentlemen inside" the barracks "is a reaction to the order to replace the unit chiefs."

Caridi said he had talked with the garrison chiefs, and noted: "I leave very satisfied, because things are being done properly here."

Asked why he had gone there at that time if everything was normal, he replied: "To verify the situation in the unit."

Regarding the situation of the unit chief, Lt Col Fernandez Maguer, Caridi said: "On orders from the Army Joint Staff, the lieutenant colonel should be transferred under normal transfer regulations" of the Army at the end of this year.

As Caridi's visit ended, spokesmen for the regiment denied that the unit was self-confined, although one of them admitted earlier that this was the case, saying the measure was adopted because "there will not be any replacements here, with one exception," that of Aldo Rico, the leader of the Holy Week mutiny.

The spokesman for the self-confined personnel added: "This unnecessary crisis was provoked by Caridi."

According to other sources, Gen Caridi got in touch with President Alfonsin twice, first to inform him of what had happened, and then to report to him that everything was under control.

The situation at the regiment was completely normal early this morning, and the soldiers who has been on weekend leave were seen reporting back. At the same time, the regiment continued to get ready for an inspection of its arsenal, for which it had been preparing all this week.

Tank Seen Inside Barracks

PY281604 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1513 GMT 28 Sep 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Sep (NA)—Two priests were seen entering the 3d Infantry Regiment in Tablada at noon, while activities inside the unit were proceeding normally as far as could be observed from outside the barracks.

A priest, who refused to identify himself to journalists positioned near the regiment, entered the regiment in a private car before noon. Visibly upset, the priest told journalists: "I have nothing to do with this. Don't be crazy."

Shortly afterward, he left the unit through a gate on Bergara Avenue in the company of another priest, whose surname is reported to be Colin.

Meanwhile, a small tank was seen moving inside the barracks, going from the main entrance toward the corner formed by the Crovara Avenue and the road skirting the town of Tablada.

Helicopter Lands at Regiment

PY281620 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1605 GMT 28 Sep 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Sep (NA)—An Army helicopter, allegedly transporting high-ranking Army officers, landed shortly after 1300 [1600 GMT] at the 3d Regiment in Tablada, where personnel went into self-confinement last night.

Sources from the Army High Command stated that so far, they do not know who was riding in the helicopter.

Caridi Replaces Regiment Commander

PY281721 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1652 GMT 28 Sep 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Sep (NA)—Army Chief of Staff General Jose Caridi went to the 3d Infantry Regiment based in Tablada at noon today to swear in the new unit commander, Lieutenant Colonel Gustavo Gonzalez Sas, who replaces Lieutenant Colonel Dario Fernandez Maguer, according to military sources.

Gen Caridi arrived at the regiment's headquarters to personally swear in Gonzalez Sas. Caridi did this despite the fact that the regiment officers and noncommissioned officers remain virtually self-confined as a sign of protest against the replacement of Fernandez Maguer, who was involved in the Holy Week incident.

Caridi made this decision despite the fact that Fernandez Maguer's replacement was not scheduled to take place until 31 December.

Further on New Commander

PY281934 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1857 GMT 28 Sep 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Sep (NA)—The Army Joint Staff has officially announced the appointment of Lieutenant Colonel Gustavo Gonzalez Sas as the new commander of the La Tablada 3d Armored Infantry Regiment. The communique reads as follows:

Today, Lieutenant Colonel Gustavo Gonzalez Sas took over as commander of the 3d Armored Infantry Regiment, replacing Lieutenant Colonel Dario Fernandez Maguer, who headed the unit during the events about which the public is well informed.

At the same time, the Military Court has been charged with the investigation of what happened in that military unit.

The communique is signed by Colonel Pedro Marti Garro.

Defense Ministry Sources Cited

PY281836 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 28 Sep 87

[Text] High-ranking Defense Ministry officials reported at noon today that the incidents at La Tablada 3d Infantry Regiment last night are the latest reactions to the Army chief's decision to replace the 3d Regiment chief.

Although the situation has not been entirely cleared up—mostly because its protagonists are attempting to prevent it from being considered a violation of military and civilian laws—Defense Ministry sources have reported that the situation is confined to the 3d Regiment, and does not affect the rest of the Army, the Air Force, or the Navy.

Army Chief of Staff General Caridi, who acted swiftly and correctly by replacing 3d Armored Infantry Regiment chief Lieutenant Colonel Fernandez Maguer, is responsible for ensuring that the military policies established by the government are obeyed.

Defense Secretary Alconada Sempe this morning noted that a situation like the one at La Tablada Regiment, which occurred just when our country has resumed foreign debt negotiations, proves to the world that our country is living in democracy.

Defense Secretary Comments

PY281937 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1820 GMT 28 Sep 87

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 28 Sep (NA)—Defense Secretary Raul Alconada Sempe today said that "complete order" prevails at the 3d armored infantry unit in La Tablada. Alconada Sempe said that "some" news "media are responsible" for the atmosphere of uneasiness transmitted to the public.

Alconada Sempe, who met this morning with President Raul Alfonsin to review the situation that arose in that military unit, denied that military men from other regiments went to the 3d Armored Infantry Regiment. He emphasized: "The people who went there (La Tablada) last night were the appropriate people." [passage omitted]

In comments to Radio Continental, Alconada Sempe said: "Upon leaving the 3d Regiment barracks this morning, General Caridi described the situation." Alconada Sempe added: "The appropriate proceedings are under way in order to establish whether the officer who allegedly made some comments really belongs to the barracks and to the Army."

Alconada Sempe again criticized some news media, which he did not identify, "because last night's reports spoke of painted faces and of an extraordinary number of vehicles that entered the 3d Armored Infantry Regiment and other units." However, "later it was learned that these reports were not true," he said, adding that "all I have been able to confirm is that the military unit is operating normally, that Gen Caridi entered and left the unit normally, and that the unit is under the command of the Army staff."

Alconada Sempe confirmed that "order" prevails within the Army, although he noted that "it will take some time to overcome last year's episodes." [passage omitted])

Alconada Sempe said that Lieutenant Colonel Dario Fernandez Maguer, the 3d Armored Infantry Regiment commander, "will remain in command of that unit until the decisions made by the Army promotion board," involving Fernandez Maguer's transfer, "are implemented."

Alconada Sempe emphasized that "contrary to the initial press reports, there have not been any quarrels within the Army." He added: "This episode was provoked from outside rather than from within." [passage omitted]

Alconada Sempe emphasized: "The true situation as far as military status is concerned is that the 3d Armored Infantry Regiment has been, is, and will continue to be under the command of the Army, whose current chief of staff is Gen Caridi."

Fernandez Denies Reported Unrest

PY281947 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1909 GMT 28 Sep 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Sep (NA)—Lieutenant Colonel Dario Fernadez Maguer denied this afternoon that the officers from the 3rd Army Regiment in La Tablada had remained self-confined and assured that "absolute normality reigns" in the unit.

Fernandez Maguer, who was transferred to another post, was, until today, commander of the 3rd Army Regiment. His removal caused a state of unrest and discomfort among his officers, who said publicly that the decision of the Army chief of staff was "an arbitrary gesture."

Fernandez Maguer made these comments as he headed from the 3rd Army Regiment to the Army Staff headquarters, at the request of General Dante Caridi.

Alfonsin Carries Out Normal Activities

PY281233 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1201 GMT 28 Sep 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Sep (TELAM)—Argentine President Raul Alfonsin today will carry out his activities at the presidential residence in Olivos as he normally does on Monday.

The chief of state has already met with some of his immediate advisers and is scheduled to receive Education and Justice Minister Jorge Sabato and Buenos Aires Province Governor Alejandro Armendariz this morning.

Antonio Napoli, head of the Civic Radical Union Senators' bloc, arrived at the presidential residence at 0845 [1145 GMT].

Jaunarena Returns Early From Visit to Spain
PY281557 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1548 GMT 28 Sep 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Sep (TELAM)—Defense Minister Jose Horacio Jaunarena today returned from Spain a few days earlier than expected. Minister Jaunarena granted no interview at Ezeiza Airport.

Jaunarena arrived at 1225 aboard a regular Varig Airlines flight from Spain, where he had gone on an official visit at the invitation of his Spanish counterpart.

Bolivia

Under Secretary Granted Visa for Chile
PY281813 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 28 Sep 87

[Text] It has been confirmed that Jorge Alderete Gonzalez, the Interior Ministry under secretary for social defense, departed for Santiago, Chile, yesterday afternoon to represent Bolivia at the first regional conference of chiefs of antinarcotics organizations.

The Chilean Government sent special instructions to its consulate in La Paz, changing its previous position and authorizing the Bolivian Government official to enter Chilean territory.

The Chilean Consulate had denied the Bolivian under secretary a visa to enter Chilean territory claiming he had been expelled from Santiago after the military coup of 11 September 1973, which put Pinochet in power.

Bolivia formally protested through its Foreign Ministry, describing this attitude as arrogant, groundless, and provocative.

Energy, Hydrocarbons Minister Resigns
PY281301 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 28 Sep 87

[Excerpt] Minister Secretary General of the Presidency Walter Zuleta has confirmed that Energy and Hydrocarbons Minister Carlos Morales has tendered his resignation. Zuleta, however, categorically denied that other independent ministers have also resigned.

In comments to Panamericana yesterday, Zuleta said he had not read the text of the letter of resignation that Carlos Landivar sent to the head of state.

Zuleta said this was just a personal position, a position, which does not involve other independent ministers, as was alleged yesterday afternoon by some news media.

[Begin Zuleta recording] That is incorrect. This is just an isolated resignation, involving only the energy and hydrocarbons minister.

I repeat: We have not received any additional resignations. I have not yet read Morales' letter. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Coca Erradication Plan 'Creating Problems'
PY282342 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0224 GMT 27 Sep 87

[Text] La Paz, 26 Sep (EFE)—Leaders of the Single Trade Union Confederation of Bolivian Peasant Workers (CSUTCB) have indicated that the plan for reducing coca plantations by 80 percent that the Bolivian Government plans to undertake in the framework of the antidrug fight is creating problems.

According to that organization's spokesmen, the government has offered to eliminate 250 hectares of coca plantations by the end of the month.This currently violates agreements signed with the coca producers that establish a voluntary reduction of the plantations in exchange for a $2,000 per hectare indemnization.

The CSUTCB points out that in the tropical zone of Los Yungas, 90 km east of La Paz, a private enterprise has started to destroy the plantations without the permission of their owners.

The peasant organization has termed this action as "arbitrary" and "violent" and has demanded that the agreements signed with the government be complied with.

Meanwhile, Jorge Alderete, deputy social defense minister of the Interior Ministry, has stated that in order to prevent U.S. aid to Bolivia during 1987 from being reduced by $8.7 million, the coca producers have destroyed 50 hectares of plantations without technical help in the past few days.

Alderete also stated that the U.S. disbursements for compensating the campesinos are slow, and up to date only $50,000 has been received.

Brazil

Shevardnadze Arrives in Brasilia 28 Sep
PY281617 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1530 GMT 28 Sep 87

[Text] Brasilia, 28 Sep (AFP)—USSR Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze arrived in Brasilia today, thus officially starting his 5-day visit to the country.

Shevardnadze, who is responsible for Soviet foreign policy, is paying an official visit to Brazil. He was received by his Brazilian counterpart, Jose Roberto de Abreu Sodre.

In brief statements to the Brazilian media, the Soviet foreign minister emphasized the elimination of nuclear and other types of arsenals.

He added that the Soviets appreciate the homeland of Hector Villa Lobos [Brazilian musician], Jorge Amado [Brazilian author], Oscar Niemeir [architect who designed the plan for the capital, Brasilia], and Pele (Edson Arantes do Nascimento).

Shevardnadze will be received by President Jose Sarney this afternoon. His visit to Brazil is regarded by Brazilian diplomats as a historic event of great importance.

Shevardnadze will sign several cooperation agreements in the economic, technical-scientific, and cultural fields, which will promote rapprochement between the two ocuntries.

The Soviets have already expressed interest in investing in Brazilian projects and in participating in joint enterprises in the mining and iron and steel sectors.

Shevardnadze arrived in Brazil on Saturday 26. He landed in Rio de Janeiro, where he spent Sunday.

Meets Abreu Sodre, Sarney

PY282359 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2255 GMT 28 Sep 87

[Text] Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze today met with Brazilian Foreign Minister Abreu Sodre in Brasilia. They discussed the joint communique they will release on Wednesday stating the position of the two countries on disarmament issues and Central America.

Included in the agenda of the two ministers are also the agreements they will sign on Wednesday, most importantly a trade agreement. In this agreement, Brazil and the Soviet Union will define the guidelines that will govern their bilateral trade. Today, bilateral trade with the Soviet Union is unfavorable. While Brazil exports sugar, cocoa, and instant coffee, the USSR exports petroleum to Brazil. Trade between the two countries has declined in the last 3 years. The objective is to reverse this trend. Today's talks, however, were primarily focused on international issues.

The two foreign ministers today left Itamaraty promising that tomorrow, when they will resume their talks, they will focus on specific issues of interest to both countries.

Late this afternoon, Shevardnadze went to Planalto Palace to pay a courtesy call on President Sarney. President Sarney noted that Shevardnadze visited Brazil in 1980 as a deputy, along with a Soviet delegation of lawmakers.

At this meeting, Shevardnadze invited President Sarney to visit the Soviet Union. President Sarney accepted the invitation, for an as yet undetermined date.

Sarney to Announce Cabinet Reshuffle

PY281643 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes in Portuguese 1600 GMT 28 Sep 87

[Text] President Jose Sarney will prepare this week the speech he will deliver to the nation over radio and television networks. The president will announce a broad ministerial reform, which will not affect the current pattern of regional distribution of portfolios.

Minister Endorses Cabinet Reform

PY281609 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 27 Sep 87 p 6

[By Carlos Chagas]

[Excerpts] Mines and Energy Minister Aureliano Chaves, PFL, contends that an immediate and complete ministerial reform by this weekend is the best solution to the current government crisis. He told *O Estado* yesterday that President Sarney can no longer waste time, at the risk of a serious institutional upheaval.

Minister Chaves said: "No minister should remain in the cabinet. The nations's president, along with the political forces that support him, should appoint a new team to deal with the serious national problems. Unless this solution is adopted, the president's authority will be undermined." [passage omitted]

Speaking frankly in his interview with *O Estado*, Aureliano Chaves placed his post at the president's disposal. He wants to leave and believes that all ministers should leave so the president can be left at ease to form a new government, thus making it possible to redefine the power structure. [passage omitted]

Sarney should find capable people to form a new cabinet, ensuring that they are recruited from sectors that effectively support him, and that they do not try to govern for him. Either the president maintains his authority through a ministerial reform or an institutional crisis will be the immediate result of not implementing that reform.

Personally, Chaves is inclined toward the presidential form of government, "since a developing country like Brazil will not readily accept a cabinet government, in which the executive power is a mere extension of congressional power." However, he will respect the majority decision of the Constituent Assembly. To resolve this issue, an immediate and complete cabinet reform is indispensable.

Vote for Parliamentary System Predicted

PY281433 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 26 Sep 87 p 5

[by C.R.]

[Text] Ulysses Guimaraes, president of the PMDB, has told President Sarney that the Constituent Assembly Systematization Commission will vote for the parliamentary system of government. This information was conveyed to the president at a meeting he held with Guimaraes on the evening of 24 September at Alvorada Palace, during which the main topic of discussion was the system of government, not the PMDB-PFL crisis. The press obtained this information from PMDB sources and from Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes, himself.

The president said he is concerned about his personal situation in view of the possible approval of the parliamentary system of government, but gave no indication that he expected such a defeat. But the government leader in the Chamber of Deputies, Deputy Carlos Sant'Anna of Bahia State, yesterday sought out the PMDB acting leader of the Constituent Assembly, Euclides Scalco of Parana State, to discuss a preliminary agreement: not to vote separately on a proposal on the presidential system or the parliamentary system, and a proposal for the gradual implementation of the parliamentary system (should the parliamentary system win out in the voting), but to vote both proposals together.

In this way, the government will have more guarantees that the parliamentary system will be implemented gradually. After all, of the 53 delegates presumably committed to the parliamentary system, 33 would favor its gradual implementation. In turn, these 33 delegates are divided into those who favor the adoption of the parliamentary system by 1989 and those who favor its full adoption in 1990.

The prediction that the parliamentary system will win the vote is being made not only by Ulysses Guimaraes but also by Carlos Sant'Anna, the Planalto Palace congressional advisers, and Sao Paulo Governor Orestes Quercia, who are all in favor of the presidential form of government. However, this prediction can be affected by the government crisis, should it be solved by a ministerial reform this coming weekend. Since the vote on the government system is scheduled for 28 September, a ministerial shuffle before that date might reverse or consolidate the parliamentary preference.

Guimaraes Reacts to Alliance Dissolution

PY260151 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2255 GMT 25 Sep 87

[Text] The PMDB has reacted calmly to the dissolution of the Democratic Alliance [AD]. PMDB President Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes believes nothing will happen regardless of whether or not the PFL continues to support the government.

Most of the politicians who met today at Deputy Guimaraes' home believe the PFL must solve its own problem. Guimaraes' home has become a kind of general headquarters, where the PMDB president spent the day discussing the party's reaction to the dissolution of the AD announced yesterday by the PFL.

Early in the morning, Guimaraes spoke for almost 1 hour with PMDB Deputy Fernando Gasparian of Sao Paulo State, and then with Deputies Luiz Henrique and Euclides Scalco and Senator Fernando Henrique Cardoso, all PMDB leaders in the Constituent Assembly.

Sao Paulo Governor Orestes Quercia arrived later. He had lunch with the PMDB president. Upon leaving, he said the PFL made a bad move when it tried to gain more political posts in the government.

[Begin Quercia recording] What has happened is that the PFL has been frustrated in its attempt to increase its presence within the government, and then retreated by announcing the dissolution of something that no longer exists. [end recording]

PMDB President Ulysses Guimaraes made a public statement on the AD dissolution only 24 hours after the announcement by the PFL. He denied that he had talked about a ministerial reshuffle with President Sarney. Guimaraes said the PFL is responsible for everything that is happening.

[Begin Guimaraes recording] I believe the PFL decided to adopt this position because of the difficult and critical situation within the Constituent Assembly, where we are facing tough and even passionate discussions. We should all be focusing on matters being discussed within the Constituent Assembly. [end recording]

Army Clashes With Workers at Itapu

PY290029 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 28 Sep 87

[From Congressional Report—Voice of the Constituent Assembly]

[Text] Jose Genoino, deputy leader of the Workers Party, demanded that the government clarify an incident in which the Army invaded the premises of the Itapu Hydroelectric Project to quell a strike of workers and members of the Parana State Civil Construction Workers Union.

According to Jose Genoino, nearly 15 armored tanks and 700 Army troops invaded the premises of Itapu and clashed with workers. As a result of this intervention, 16 workers were wounded. Genoino added that other workers are being treated in hospitals. Genoino also stressed that even though the enterprise denies calling in the soldiers, this is a very serious incident. He also questioned the role assigned to the Armed Forces in the Constitution.

Constituent Joao Paulo considered the report extremely serious. The striking workers were already negotiating with the enterprise, according to (Jadir Jon de Asis), president of the Civil Construction Workers Union. Joao Paulo called attention to the fact that the Brazilian Army in the last few years has been essentially fulfilling the role of suppressor of workers who legally demand the fulfillment of their rights.

Chile

Foreign Minister Addresses UN Assembly

PY290243 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Sep 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Ricardo Garcia stated before the UN General Assembly that Chile has nearly consolidated a modern, solid, and stable democracy. He added that Chile is living through a significantly historical stage not correctly understood in the international arena.

Before speaking at the UN General Assembly, Garcia met with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. Also present at the meeting were Chilean Ambassador to Washington Hernan Felipe Errazuriz, and Deputy Assistant Secretary for South American Affairs Robert Gelbard.

Speaking at the UN General Assembly after representatives from Cambodia, Saudi Arabia, Yugoslavia, and Nepal, the Chilean foreign minister touched on the problems of concern to the international community. He praised the UN resolution calling for peace between Iran and Iraq. He added that Chile is following the efforts for disarmament and withdrawing the danger of a nuclear war.

He went on to say that unfortunately there are actions contrary to the desires for peace and progress, citing the strategy of terrorism:

[Begin recording] Unfortunately, there is evidence of actions supporting violence and terrorism. The international community must focus its attention on these actions. Terrorism, due to its cruelty and the advantage it has of attacking society anywhere, and because it strikes anonymously, seeks to destabilize an organized community, regardless of its social, economic, cultural, or political situation. Terrorism is a scourge affecting mankind, its principles, and basic values, and all possible efforts must be made to erase it from the face of the earth.

It is a shame, to say the least, that there are still governments supporting terrorist movements. [end recording]

The foreign minister called for a firm universal position against terrorism, which has had a special role in terms of meddling activities in Chile. He then expressed the Chilean concern over activities involving meddling in the domestic affairs of other countries:

[Begin recording] International coexistence demands that, in addition to unity and progress, we respect the exclusive affairs of each sovereign state. It is not appropriate to judge or to meddle in domestic affairs of other countries, or in the self-determination of each country.

The great world powers have special responsibility regarding this matter. A balance will be achieved with the participation of each and every nation in the world, seeking to consolidate their own future with great responsibility. To oppose or meddle in the free and sovereign decisions of these countries will only weaken the basis of that balance and will create situations that will distort the real situation. [end recording]

The Chilean foreign minister also denounced the arbitrary use of human rights for political purposes, thus undermining the principle of nonintervention.

Garcia then proposed that action be taken to improve the human rights principle, both in substance and in form; he termed such action indispensable.

Continuing with his activities in New York, the Chilean foreign minister will meet within the next few hours with his colleagues from Ecuador, Iraq, Belize, and the Philippines.

Official GAZETTE Reports PDC's Formation

PY260033 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 25 Sep 87

[Text] The official *Gazette* today published a document establishing the formation of the Christian Democratic Party. The document states that the new party's acronym will be PDC, and it will use the slogan: Onward, Chilean Youth.

The party's symbol will be a blue banner with a white rhombus, inside of which there is a red arrow crossed by two horizontal rectangles. Its charter has nine points, stating that the party's main objective is man's full spiritual and material development. It adds that man's rights are essential and must be respected, and these rights are above the state's rights. It says the state must ensure that these rights are respected.

The new party's provisional leadership is as follows:

President: Patricio Aylwin

First Vice President: Jose Andres Rafael Zaldivar Larrain

Second Vice President: Narciso Irureta

Third Vice President: Edgardo Boeninger

National Secretary: Gutemberg Alejandro Martinez

Treasurer: Jose del Carmen de Grogorio Aroca

Art Festival Favoring Free Elections Banned

PY282045 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1642 GMT 28 Sep 87

[Text] Santiago, 28 Sep (EFE)—The police banned an art festival favoring free elections in Chile. Independent youth organizations were about to stage the festival at the Olympic Village in Santiago.

According to Jaime Perez de Arce, secretary general of one of the socialist factions invited to the festival, festival organizers distributed leaflets house to house and in the streets. The leaflets called on the citizenry to register for the elections in order to vote in the plebiscite to be held next year to elect the new president.

The festival at the Olympic Village was about to get under way, with the pparticipation of musical and art groups, when police told the organizers that the festival had been banned.

Meanwhile, two leaders from the youth organizations promoting the festival went to a police district to request permission to hold it. The leaders were "held," interrogated, and finally released.

Bomb Attacks Reported in Santiago, Vina del Mar

PY231853 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1742 GMT 23 Sep 87

[Text] Santiago, 23 Sep (EFE)—A wave of explosive attacks that caused considerable damage have taken place in the past few hours in Santiago, Vina del Mar, and on the coast of the Central Region.

One person was burned as he tried to escape from a fire in a Santiago school. The fire was caused by a bomb hurled by unidentified individuals.

A public service bus was attacked by an armed group who forced the driver and the passengers to get off before they set the bus on fire.

A bomb exploded in a downtown Santiago supermarket, causing damage, while Carabineros personnel deactivated another powerful bomb found hidden in a downtown street.

In Vina del Mar, 110 km northeast of Santiago, an urban bus that was parked, and had no passengers, was destroyed by a bomb placed under it.

In Chile, according to the military authorities, extreme left groups commemorate their anniversary dates in September. They therefore take this opportunity to carry out violent attacks.

Explosion Damages Santiago Secondary School

PY251919 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 25 Sep 87

[Text] A bomb went off at the N-41 secondary school, which is located at 1400 Dorsal Street, near Independencia Street.

The explosion damaged the secondary school's rest rooms.

GOPE [Special Operations Group] personnel went to the secondary school to investigate whether other bombs had been placed there.

Leopoldo Gonzalez, the school director, has stated that only the rest rooms were damaged, and that although the students panicked, no one was injured.

The police evacuated the school as a preventive measure; classes resumed later.

Terrorists Set Bus Afire; Two Injured

PY260149 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 Sep 87

[Excerpt] A terrorist attack which could have had tragic consequences occurred at 1700 on San Antonio Street, between Alameda and (Monoa), a short distance from the Municipal Theatre, where another incident took palce ysterday. As a result of yesterday's incident, two people—a university student and a Carabinero—were seriously injured and the Municipal Theatre was heavily damaged.

This afternoon's attack was perpetrated by three young people, who got on a Recoleta-Lira bus at San Antonio and Esmeralda Streets. When the bus passed (Molera) Street, the three individuals tore open plastic bags and poured flammable liquid—probably benzine—in the bus and set it on fire. The three men got off the bus when it slowed down. The only passengers injured were two boys, who had to be rescued by Carabineros personnel. [passage omitted]

Military, Policemen Raid Maipu District

PY252202 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 25 Sep 87

[Excerpts] Military men and policemen have been conducting raids in the Maipu District since early this morning. This operation was similar to raids in other parts of Santiago in the last few days.

The military and police forces concentrated their efforts west of and including Pajaritos Avenue. They also raided La Poblacion, El Dinero, and El Carmen slums. [passage omitted]

An area resident told "Primera Plana" [name of program]:

[Begin recording] I have just been told that a bag of weapons was found on Guadalajara Street, near [words indistinct]. The owner of the house was not home at the time, and the policemen took his daughter, infant granddaughter, and a 15- or 16-year-old youth out of the house. They beat the youth, held him against a wall, and bean him again. The raiders were detectives, not policemen. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Colombia

Justice Minister Arias 'Forced' To Resign

PA281955 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1812 GMT 28 Sep 87

[Text] Bogota, 28 Sep (DPA)—Colombian Justice Jose Manuel Arias Carrizosa was forced to resign from his post after being linked with the alleged contraband of a Rolls Royce vehicle he acquired while serving as Colombian ambassador to Cuba in 1982.

Carlos Mauro Hoyos, attorney general of the nation, stated today that the justice minister had been called to render sworn testimony on the alleged contraband of a vehicle and that the judicial proceedings that linked him with the penal process of Colombian customs was never revoked or annulled.

The Attorney General's Office had acquitted the justice minister of the charges leveled by the leftist "Patriotic Union," supported by the opposition Social-Conservative Party in Congress. However, the office confirmed today that the proceedings begun in 1984 are linked to the minister but that the legal proceedings were never carried out and the case was dropped.

The attorney general, after studying the report that was submitted to him, concluded that one of the delegates in the investigation had gone ahead with the formal proceedings in a strictly legal manner according to his authority and had not refuted the contradictions brought forward by Minister Arias Carrizosa.

Minister Rules Out Agreement With Rebels

PA230417 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 21 Sep 87

[Text] Bogota—Government Minister Cesar Gaviria Trujillo has said that the government will not negotiate any new political agreements with the guerrillas, adding that the only possible pact would be a demobilization and a cease-fire by all the members of subversive groups.

Minister Gaviria Trujillo, who will resume his duties today, emphatically said that President Barco's government will not negotiate on the existence of institutions. He added that, in his opinion, it is no longer possible to reach political agreements, such as the ones signed during former President Belisario Betancur's presidential term. According to Gaviria Trujillo, those agreements frustrated the Colombian people.

In a statement for the "Person of the Week" program, Minister Gaviria Trujillo admitted that the La Uribe agreements have no value for the country. He added that the government will not take any steps to revive the agreements unless the FARC expresses its intention of demobilizing and laying down its weapons.

Gaviria Trujillo said that, nevertheless, President Barco's government maintains its conciliatory spirit and does not believe that the problem of subversion can only be resolved militarily.

Gaviria Trujillo told Caracol that he hopes that the conservative opposition in the Congress will not be destructive or obstructive, which, according to him, occurred during the previous legislature.

Reportage on Bombs, Army-Rebel Clashes

Bus Bomb Kills 1

PA241822 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 1730 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Excerpt] A few minutes ago a powerful bomb exploded inside a bus in the Egipto neighborhood here in Bogota. A 67-year-old man, Luis Salazar Agudelo, who was riding the bus, was killed. There are at least 10 injured. It was reported that two individuals left the bomb inside the bus and got off the bus two blocks before it exploded.

Here is the report about this incident, which just occurred in Bogota.

One person killed and at least 10 people were seriously injured when a bomb exploded at noon inside a bus that covered the Girardot-Casa Blanca route.

Although the reasons for this suspected terrorist act have not been established, it was surmised that possibly one of the passengers carried the bomb that severely damaged the bus.

The authorities placed the driver under preventive arrest. The bus' license plate was SD-5971 and it was owned by the Zotra-Andes. [passage omitted]

Political Office Bombed

PA250156 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Sep 87

[Report by Consuelo Garcia]

[Excerpt] A medium-strength bomb exploded at 0530 today, 25 September] at the headquarters of the Broad Front-Conservative Integration Movement [Frente Amplio-Integracion Conservodora] in Bucaramanga. This movement is led by Senator Dario Marin Vanegas. [passage omitted]

11 Die in Clashes

PA272351 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 22 Sep 87 p 8

[Unattributed article: "Violence Decreases in Several Sectors of the Country;" all figures as published]

[Excerpts] As a result of yesterday's clashes provoked by various guerrilla groups in the departments of Cordoba, Cauca, Cundinamarca, Cesar, Santander, and Huila, and in Vichada Commissariat, three guerrillas were killed, three more were captured, eight peasants were killed, one policeman was injured, and two cattlemen were kidnapped.

The first incident took place at Vichada Commissariat, where counterguerrilla units clashed with large FARC columns on the banks of Tomo River, near La Primavera, after the guerrillas had entered the Agricultural Test Center of the Colombian Agricultural Institution and stole 18 cars. Counterguerrilla units of the General Serviez Battalion clashed with the rebels, inflicting 3 casualties on them and recovering 5 of the 18 Toyota vehicles that had been stolen. The Army units also confiscated four G-3 rifles, four antitank weapons, seven field radios, two M-1 carbines, and seven PRD-423 fragmentation grenades.

Similarly, two M-19 guerrillas were captured in the last few hours by units of the anti-extortion and antikidnapping group of the DAS [Administrative Department of Security] judicial police. The two were apprehended as they received 12 million pesos from a distinguished Bogota businessman, who was paying them off to buy his safety and that of his family. [passage omitted]

In the last few hours, four FARC guerrillas were killed in various clashes with regular Army and national police forces. [passage omitted]

During the clashes FARC documents, including a list of Huila Department people targetted for extortion, and several weapons used exclusively by the Army were confiscated. [passage omitted]

Intelligence service units added that they also confiscated a map of Huila Department indicating sites the rebels had planned to occupy.

In addition, it was reported that two peasants were executed by members of the eighth FARC Front in Patia municipality at the place known as El Fondo. [passage omitted]

As a result of an attack on a regular national police patrol in Planetarrica, Cordoba Department, one policeman was injured and one Popular Liberation Army (EPL) rebel was captured. [passage omitted]

After several minutes of gunfire, the policemen succeeded in capturing rebel Bernardo Ortiz, who was carrying a 9-mm pistol.

It was also learned that several guerrillas killed six citizens, including three peasants, in Lebrija and Puerto Parra municipalities, because some of them refused to collaborate with them and others refused to pay the tax levied on them to guarantee their safety. [passage omitted]

Finally, two people were kidnapped, but a third succeeded in foiling his own abduction in various incidents that took place in the country in the last few hours. [passage omitted]

Paraguay

Further on Criticism of U.S. Ambassador

Justice, Labor Minister Cited

PY251512 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 25 Sep 87 p 8

[Text] Asked whether the national government is or is not concerned over a report released by the U.S. State Department concerning our country's political situation, Justice and Labor Minister Dr J. Eugenio Jacquet has emphatically said: "The government is not concerned because Yankees don't vote here. In Paraguay, we are only interested in the Paraguayan people's opinion about our government."

Concerning the incidents at a meeting between the U.S. ambassador and Paraguayan Deputy Foreign Minister Elpidio Acevedo, Jacquet said: "The government followed the people's opinion during a meeting with Ambassador Taylor. Incidentally, he became very upset, beyond diplomatic standards. He became upset because he knew exactly of what he was being accused. He thought that nothing was known."

The justice and labor minister said: "We, in the government, and much more so the Colorado people, are not concerned by these things." He added that the Colorado people "will be opportunely called upon to respond to all the negative attitudes being taken by some agents of international extremism."

The justice and labor minister was also asked whether the statements made against Ambassador Taylor could damage the relationship with the U.S. Government. Jacquet replied: "Public statements are nothing but the result of the beliefs about Ambassador Taylor, and of what has been proven."

Jacquet added: "It must be pointed out that the U.S. ambassador is not alone. There are other important people at the embassy who support him and who—perhaps—are even more involved than Ambassador Taylor."

Jacquet added: "In Paraguay, we will not permit subversive actions." He pointed out that the present-day "progress and harmonious coexistence within the framework of democracy and liberty" are the result of "the peace" prevailing in the country. He said that this peace, which "we will preserve," makes "the Communists run away, because, thank God, the Colorado Party is powerful."

Colorado Party Senator Comments

PY270246 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 26 Sep 87 p 10

[Text] Colorado Party Senator Ramon Enrique Reverchon has said that despite the fact that the United States is considered the leader of the free world, it does not have the right to intevene in the domestic matters of any country. He said there are international organizations like the United Nations and the OAS that are entitled by their member countries to be concerned with human rights issues.

"These organizations have universal jurisdiction in the human rights field. However, individual states do not have that right. They do not have rights on any subject, especially considering the sovereignty of each independent country," he said.

Reverchon is one of the top leaders of the current Colorado Party Excecutive Board, and is president of the Encarnacion Colorado Party Precinct. He also said independent countries are equal under the law, as specified in international agreements signed by all the nations of the planet. "But it so happens that the United States attributed to itself an ecumenical right to intervene in all countries, and it regrettably must be said that U.S. intervention always brings problems to these countries, turning them into centers of serious disorder, as in the case of Cuba, Central America, and the Philippines," he said.

Reverchon said having the title of leader of the free world, which is attributed to the United States, does not mean giving up one's sovereignty. [as published] "On the contrary, the United States has gained that leadership through its philosophical principles to defend Western and Christian civilization. However, this in no way means that the United States is entitled to interfere in the domestic affairs of any country."

The senator said Paraguay has inherited from its founders great concern and love for its sovereignty.

"Anyone who carefully studies our history will immediately realize that our nation has a strong love for independence and great respect for the rights of the other countries," he said.

Asked if U.S. foreign policy regarding Paraguay would change after Ambassador Clyde Taylor's departure, Reverchon said: "I believe the personality of a diplomat has a great influence on the position he occupies because the success of his performance depends on his objectivity, training, political inclination, and position on the latest ideologies. These factors will make him more or less objective. Diplomats, as defined in the documents that govern diplomacy, have the obligation to encourage rapprochement among nations and to improve relations. They are not supposed to create unrest or to upset the ties that bind nations."

Regarding the criticism that high-ranking Colorado leaders made in Coronel Oviedo against the U.S. ambassador, Reverchon said that "only those who issued the criticism can be responsible for it. I believe that the success of a role depends very much on who performs it."

Taylor 'Persona non Grata'

PY241826 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 24 Sep 87 p 7

[Text] The Nationalist Colorado Alliance, which supports the Colorado Party militant faction, has issued a resolution through which it declares U.S. Ambassador Clyde Taylor "persona non grata" in view of his "insolent interference in Paraguayan domestic affairs."

The resolution states that "the Nationalist Colorado Alliance youth board, headed by Bernardo Gimenez Villalba, has issued a resolution through which it unanimously declares U.S. Ambassador Clyde Taylor "persona non grata" for his insolent interference in Paraguayan domestic affairs. it also supports all the terms and concepts expressed by the respectable Colorado party leaders, Deputy Miguel Angel Lopez Gimenez and Manuel M. Esquivel during a ceremony held in Coronel Oviedo during which they denounced the well-known subversive and conspiracy campaign being promoted by Ambassador Taylor in his regular activities during which he encourages irregular opposition leaders who are striving to create chaos and anarchy."

"We warn this U.S. diplomatic clown that Colorado youth is ready to defend law and order in any field and that we, the young Colorado Stroessnerist combatants, are in permanent session to establish our assault batallions that will crush the enemies of the Colorado party and of our leader, General Alfredo Stroessner, be it either Taylor, or his followers who have been fully identified as foreigners who act within the framework of the so-called national Accord. You are hereby warned."

Abrams' 'Erroneous Image' Criticized

PY251845 Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 25 Sep 87 p 7

[Editorial: "Are You Being Manipulated, Mr Abrams?"]

[Excerpt] "The democratic zeal" of someone who does not see the usurpation of a name, the undue appropriation of legal representation and symbols, and the systematic aggression against some people by the social communications media is highly suspicious.

A person has to be very very shortsighted not to distinguish between empty political spheres, maliciously left empty by the minority radical opposition, and the violation of places and procedures that are forbidden by the law in defense of other people's rights.

The position of a foreign observer must be very prejudiced if he commits himself systematically to the same sectarian elements who are always involved in disobedience and disorder, and at the same time disregards and minimizes the democratic expression of the orderly and participating opposition.

The provocation of the stubborn rebels must have a dangerous hidden side, full of bad connections and conspiracies. They are always the same people who, counting on the support of remote sources of power, are encouraged not to limit themselves to simple protests, but to proclaim disobedience of the law.

The rising tide of acts of provocation strongly calls attention when it is coupled with information regarding large sums of money that the irregular minorities receive from international foundations with political-ideological inclinations. This is even more the case when these minorities receive "official invitations" for their leaders to travel abroad, especially when these leaders are notoriously embarked on abstention from, and sabotage of, elections.

The sectarian inclination of those who do not see the difference between free expression and the most repugnant verbal aggression to the honor, reputation, position, and prerogatives of high-ranking officials has to be shamelessly obvious, particularly when this opposition moves from the right to criticize and oppose to defamation, slander, ridicule, and mockery, without showing any respect for the human rights of those affected, or for the prerogatives of their high positions.

He who cannot see how this has been happening in the name of democracy, liberty, freedom of expression, and democratic dissent does not deserve to be in Paraguay or to live among Paraguayans because he has confined himself to a corner with a small group of people, and has left the broad perspective of reality and fairness.

That person is no longer useful because he has lost the necessary objectivity which is the basic strength of his testimony; he has become a partisan, and as such he has not even chosen a positive option for dialogue, democracy, and political cooperation. He has taken sides with radical positions, ideological extremism, and potential violence.

Paraguay has an open society with a limited population, without depersonalized cosmopolitan centers or economic power-centers capable of challenging the political or institutional framework of power. Nothing can happen without quickly reaching public opinion for its novelty and because it affects the population as a whole. In this country, a political assassination, a kidnapping for ransom, the disapperance of a well-known person, or the intrusion of a guerrilla group would have a tremendous impact because of the closeness and sensitivity of our society. Only marginal or residual sporadic incidents, out of a long list of human rights violations, violent incidents, instability, destabilization, or states of emergencies occur here in Paraguay. They are the exceptions that confirm the rule of a stable and orderly peace.

Here we have no racial or religious discrimination; within the framework of normal political activities, no one has to hide or deny his party or the dissident party faction he supports; local newspapers properly identify politicians and they in turn publicize themselves. This is witnessed in the local commercial press which daily prints articles on: Colorados [referring to Colorado Party members]; Radical Liberals [referring to Radical Liberal Party, PLR]; Liberals [referring to Liberal Party, PL, members]; Febrerists [referring to Febrerista Revolutionary Party, PRF, members]; "Authentics" [referring to Authentic Radical Liberal Party]; "Mirists" [referring to Radical Liberal Integration Movement]; Christian Democrats; "Mopoco" [Colorado Popular Movement]; "Teete" [Teete Liberal Party]; etc; and even personalist factions such as "Lainism" [referring to PLRA party leader Domingo Laino]; "Saguierism" [referring to PLRA party leader Miguel Abdon Saguier]; and others like the "Verists" [referring to PRF President Fernando Vera] and "Acevedists" [referring to PRF faction leader Euclides Acevedo]. All political parties and factions are properly organized. They have their own boards, and headquarters. It is also quite obvious that the opposition could do things much better, act in a more coherent manner and with greater popular representation, if it were able to overcome the splintering of political parties and their widespread in-fighting.

But there is no impartial observer acknowledging this obvious reality that is seen everywhere, that is confirmed by the daily press. At least there are no impartial observers who do not submit to their superiors grotesquely exaggerated and biased reports on minor, bloodless, temporary, sporadic, isolated, and circumstantial incidents which do not undermine the most important issue, that is, the democratic opening process and the guarantees for a multi-party political struggle. But political struggle is not synonymous with disorder, violence, anarchy, disdain for the rights of others, provocation, usurpation, slandering, or mockery which undermines the right of every individual to project his own image. Although technically speaking there may not be serious violations in the aforementioned list, they may pose a great psychological offense to Paraguayans and this should also be taken into consideration.

We are certain that Mr Elliot Abrams, who has his eyes centered on Paraguay, will not read any articles which report that garbage trucks pick up bodies off the streets before dawn or that news issued by a legal organization is prohibited, or which report lists of missing persons.

If political factions do not receive the same treatment and do not have the same rights that political parties enjoy, it is because they lack legal status or because they are violating the rights of other parties. We do not think that Mr Abrams has concluded by himself that "the basic rights of Paraguayan citizens" are not upheld. We tend to think that because of the clumsiness, ill-faith, or prejudice of his informers in Paraguay, he has formed an erroneous image of the real situation in Paraguay when examined in the light of the law, which we are going to do here using the right to hold meetings as a means to "express legitimate political dissension."

The second phrase of Article 76 of the Constitution states in this regard: "meetings in public places will be regulated by the law as a means to safeguard the rights of third parties and publice order." Article 4, paragraph 13 of Law No 877 authorizes the police to "issue regulations on meetings in public places". In view of this, it is not enough for the interested party to give notice of the holding of a meeting. It must be properly authorized by the police. Moreover, to avoid confusion among citizens eligible to vote, Article 21 of Law No 886 establishes that "the names and symbols of any political party are the exclusive property of that political party." It adds that "newly established political groups will not be allowed to use the name of any other political party nor shall they be allowed to omit, add, or use variables of names of any political party." Like a great umbrella that protects all other laws, the last paragraph of Article 71 of the Constitution states: "anyone can freely criticize the laws but no one will be able to promote the violation of that which is established in the laws." Article 123, on obligations, states: "All citizens are obliged to comply with and obey the Constitution and the laws established therein, as well as the resolutions and decrees which, in keeping with their duties, are issued by the proper government organizations." [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Advocates Nonintervention

PY251529 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 25 Sep 87 pp 8, 9

[Text] Speaking before the UN General Assembly [UNGA] in New York on Wednesday evening, Foreign Minister Carlos Augusto Saldivar said that under no circumstances and by no means will Paraguay tolerate foreign interference in Paraguayan domestic affairs, "which are the exclusive concern of Paraguayans and which must be solved by Paraguayans."

During the UNGA session, which was attended by top-level authorities of the organization and representatives of all continents, Saldivar established the Paraguayan position, stressing in particular that "we advocate permanent respect for the personality and

independence of all countries and, in strict reciprocity, we demand faithful observance of the same principles by other nations."

In another part of his speech, Saldivar said: "Paraguay continues to make progress in peace, in a democratic process that has not been discontinued since 1954, ensuring justice and freedom for all Paraguayans. Paraguay is a state of law, in which citizens have developed and have improved democratic institutions, and in which political life is based on a participative, multiparty, democratic system."

Saldivar also said that Paraguay supports integration. He mentioned some joint projects and some achievements involving neighboring countries and other countries of the continent.

The minister warned that "At this forum, the Paraguayan Government condemned the intervention in Afghanistan by a superpower, which has shown its disregard for international justice and for the principle of nonintervention."

He added: "This is the right time to reiterate, universally, that this principle, which is a foundation of our charter and of international law, is the only guarantee for peace and coexistence among socioeconomically different nations."

In another part of his speech, Saldivar stressed: "Paraguay, which became an independent nation on 14 May 1811, appreciates the UN decolonization efforts."

He went on to say that "we admire those efforts, because we firmly support the principle of self-determination. The enforcement of this principle, however, should not be based on circumstances that have nothing to do with the legitimate interests of the nations that will obtain their independence."

Concerning international terrorism, Saldivar said: "This is the time to firmly state that the United Nations has two alternatives: Either persuade all nations to condemn this irrational and inhuman behavior and to cooperate in eliminating the centers of terrorism, or our organization's credibility will be lost and the United Nations will have to admit that it has been unable to put an end to a practice that is a crime against mankind."

The minister then said: "Even though Paraguay is not experiencing the same situation as many sister republics in connection with the foreign debt problem, we support all countries that face this situation. This problem calls for not only financial and economic solutions—which are very important—but also political solutions, because no nation can agree to halt its development when facing new essential needs in order to avoid situations that may jeopardize the peace and freedom of the developing countries."

Concerning the human rights issue, the Paraguayan foreign minister said that "Paraguay has cooperated and continues to cooperate with the UN Human Rights Commission. It received an independent specialist in 1987, who traveled all over the country and became aware of the situation prevailing in Paraguay. The same specialist, whose work is appreciated by our country, will return to Paraguay to continue with his observations before the end of 1987."

Peru

Senate Approves Finance Nationalization

PA290438 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0427 GMT 29 Sep 87

[Text] Lima, 28 Sep (REUTER)—The Peruvian Senate this evening approved the bill calling for the nationalization [estatiza] of the country's financial system, which includes 10 banks, 17 insurance companies, and 6 financial enterprises, a Senate spokesman has announced.

The bill has 24 articles. It must be sent in the next few hours to the Chamber of Deputies to be reviewed and approved before it is sent to President Alan Garcia, who must promulgate it to make it a law.

The Chamber of Deputies had already approved the bill on 25 August and had sent it to the Senate for debates.

Bank Bombing Causes 'Considerable' Damage

PA261633 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 26 Sep 87

[Text] The offices of the Banco Exterior de los Andes y Espana today were the target of a terrorist attack that caused considerable property damage.

The bank is on the second block of Giron Antonio Miro Quezada. According to some witnesses, at approximately 0550 a man left a package at the bank's door. After writing on one of the building's walls the initials MIR, which stand for Movement of the Revolutionary Left, he calmly walked away toward the Plaza de Armas. The bomb exploded a few seconds later, destroying windows in nearby buildings. The shock wave reached the building on Pasaje Acuna where the Stock Exchange is located, as well as the El Condor and El Pacifico insurance companies and another dozen buildings.

The owners of the aforementioned firms at noon were still cleaning up the debris from the explosion, while pieces of glass continued to fall from the upper floors on unwary pedestrians.

Shining Path Kill 4, Wound Mayor, Family

PA252253 Paris AFP in Spanish 2233 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Text] Lima, 24 Sep (AFP)—A Peruvian official today confirmed that four people were killed and a mayor and his family wounded as a result of the most recent incursions by the Maoist Shining Path in an emergency area in Ayacucho, in the southeastern Andean region.

In the most serious incident, a Shining Path column attacked an irrigation camp by surprise on Monday night. This occurred in Masinga, in Ayacucho's La Mar

Province, where the Shining Path members shot three peasants to death: Francisco Morales, Filomeno Amiquero, and Benito Calle.

Before they fled, the rebels burned and dynamited camp facilities, irrigation ditches, and gates, causing extensive damage, a spokesman for the Departmental Corporation for the Development of Ayacucho, which is building the project, reported.

At the same time, another armed group entered the house of Mauro Gomez, mayor and leader of the ruling Aprista Party of Vilcashuaman, Ayacucho, and shot his wife and 1-year-old baby while they were asleep.

According to police sources, Gomez was shot in the back, injuring his spine, his wife was wounded in the left knee, and the baby was shot in the thigh.

In view of the victims' serious condition, they were transported to Ayacucho's Central Hospital via a Peruvian Air Force (FAP) helicopter.

In addition, the rebels burned and dynamited Gomez' house and fled to an unknown destination. The military sent a patrol after the rebels.

In Vischongo, also located in La Mar Province, another armed group dynamited and burned an electric plant on Tuesday. They killed Gregorio Fernandez, the plant's watchman.

Yesterday, members of the Tupac Amaru Movement (MRTA) seized a large amount of food from the Robelsa Store—a private business—and took it to the "Miguel Grau" slum where they gave it away, as they frequently do.

On Tuesday, a Shining Path group forced 400 students and approximately 20 teachers of the "Jose Maria Arguedas" secondary school, located in the Chilca district in Huancayo, Junin, 300 km southeast of Lima, to listen to "a 20-minute dissertation on their doctrine" about the armed struggle. Police reported that the rebels, armed with submachineguns, seized the school by surprise when the students were lined up in the yard.

Suriname

Bouterse to Discuss 'Democratization' at UN

FL281830 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 28 Sep 87

[Text] This Friday, government leader Desi Bouterse will address the United Nations General Assembly.

In his speech, he will touch upon the democratization process which is underway in Suriname. By that time the results of the referendum on the draft constitution will be known and also presented to this international institution.

Commander Bouterse will be accompanied by Foreign Minister Heidweiller Cabinet Director Herrenberg, and officials of the UN desk of foreign affairs.

The delegation is expected back in Suriname on Sunday.

Rights Group Charges Army With Murders

Response Due 'Soon'

FL252135 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 25 Sep 87

[Text] Surinamese Foreign Minister Henk Heidweiller has told the human rights organization Amnesty International that it can soon expect a response from his government on its report, which contains allegations of civilian murders on the part of the army.

Mr Heidweiller apologized for the delay in his government's response to the report, saying Surinamese authorities have been focusing attention on contacts with the UN Human Rights Commission, whose investigator recently visited Suriname in August.

Army Rejects Charges

FL261655 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 26 Sep 87

[Text] In Suriname, the Army has rejected charges by Amnesty International that it murdered civilians while fighting rebels. The denial was issued by Suriname's acting Army chief of staff who accuses Amnesty International of spreading what he called sinister and dirty fantasies. Earlier this week, the London-based group said eye-witnesses saw soldiers shoot at least 35 civilians in eastern Suriname last November. The Army says it regrets civilian casualties and did refrain from several actions against rebels because the risk against civilians was too great.

National Party Wants Consensus Not Confrontation

FL281930 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 28 Sep 87

[Text] The policy of the National Party of Suriname, NPS, has nothing to do with violence. It aims at consensus and not on confrontation and the show of force.

This was stated on Friday night by NPS spokesman Rufus (Nooitmeer) at the feast meeting to mark the 41st anniversary of the party.

At a party congress yesterday, (Nooitmeer) declared that the political parties were the ones which said that the draft constitution should not be changed. The changing would take too much time, according to (Nooitmeer), who added that changes could be made later.

Finally, he said the draft constitution was not made by the military and that the preamble has been written by NPS Chairman Henck Aaron.

National Party Adopts Reforms at Congress

FL281905 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 28 Sep 87

[Text] The National Party of Suriname, NPS, held a party congress yesterday where a number of reforms within the party were carried through.

The party's Council has been replaced by an Advisory Council, while an NPS Youth Council has also been installed. The Advisory Council is led by (Ronald Venechamp), the Youth Council by (Ro Varda).

The NPS, which celebrates its 41st anniversary tomorrow, reelected Mr Henck Aaron as chairman of the Executive, while other members of the Executive will be drawn from the various districts. Dr (R.T. Yesrin) was elected vice chairman.

[Words indistinct] the party now has a Congress Comittee and a Womens Council. The members for the latter are yet to be elected. At the Congress yesterday, the party's program was presented and adopted.

New Law Requires Candidate Residency Time
FL252145 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 25 Sep 87

[Text] The Surinamese National Assembly has approved a new law which will affect the 25 November elections. The law states that candidates must have lived and worked in their districts for 2 consecutive years. Authorities are hoping the provision will reduce the current imbalance in parlimentarians from Paramaribo.

Proposal to Raise Debt Ceiling Approved
FL231830 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 23 Sep 87

[Text] The National Assembly yesterday unanimously adopted a draft proposal for raising of the ceiling of loans by the state.

Under the new proposal, the state can now borrow 2.5 billion guilders at the most, compared to 1.1 billion previously.

The ceiling of the state's debt at the Central Bank has been raised from 950 million to 2 billion guilders. The state has a foreign debt of 160 million guilders, while the debt of the Central Bank amounts to 1.8 billion guilders.